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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count data book examines statewide trends in the well-being of Connecticut's children. The report first examines how well children have faired during the past 100 years in terms of economics, education, health and safety, and race relations, and how they are doing at the start of the 21st century. This section also outlines the state's objectives or vision for children and the underlying principles of this vision. Following demographic information, the bulk of the report provides a statistical portrait of Connecticut's children based on 17 indicators of well-being: (1) family setting; (2) children in families receiving welfare benefits; (3) children receiving free or reduced-price school meals; (4) high school employment; (5) births to teen mothers; (6) low birthweight; (7) infant mortality; (8) late or no prenatal care; (9) physical fitness tests; (10) preschool experience; (11) performance on Connecticut Mastery Test; (12) performance on Connecticut Academic Performance Test; (13) high school dropout rates; (14) child abuse/neglect; (15) child deaths; (16) preventable teen deaths; and (17) juvenile violent crime arrests. Among the findings, the report indicates that the number of families receiving welfare benefits has decreased; the number of high school students working in excess of 16 hours per week has increased; births to teen mothers have decreased but the number still remains large; infant mortality has decreased as has the problem of late or no prenatal care; and the rate of high school dropouts has improved, as have child abuse/neglect rates. The number of juvenile violent crime arrests has increased. The remaining section of the report provides the child well-being information organized by region rather than indicator. Data

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sources and notes and a description of the methodology conclude the report. (HTH)

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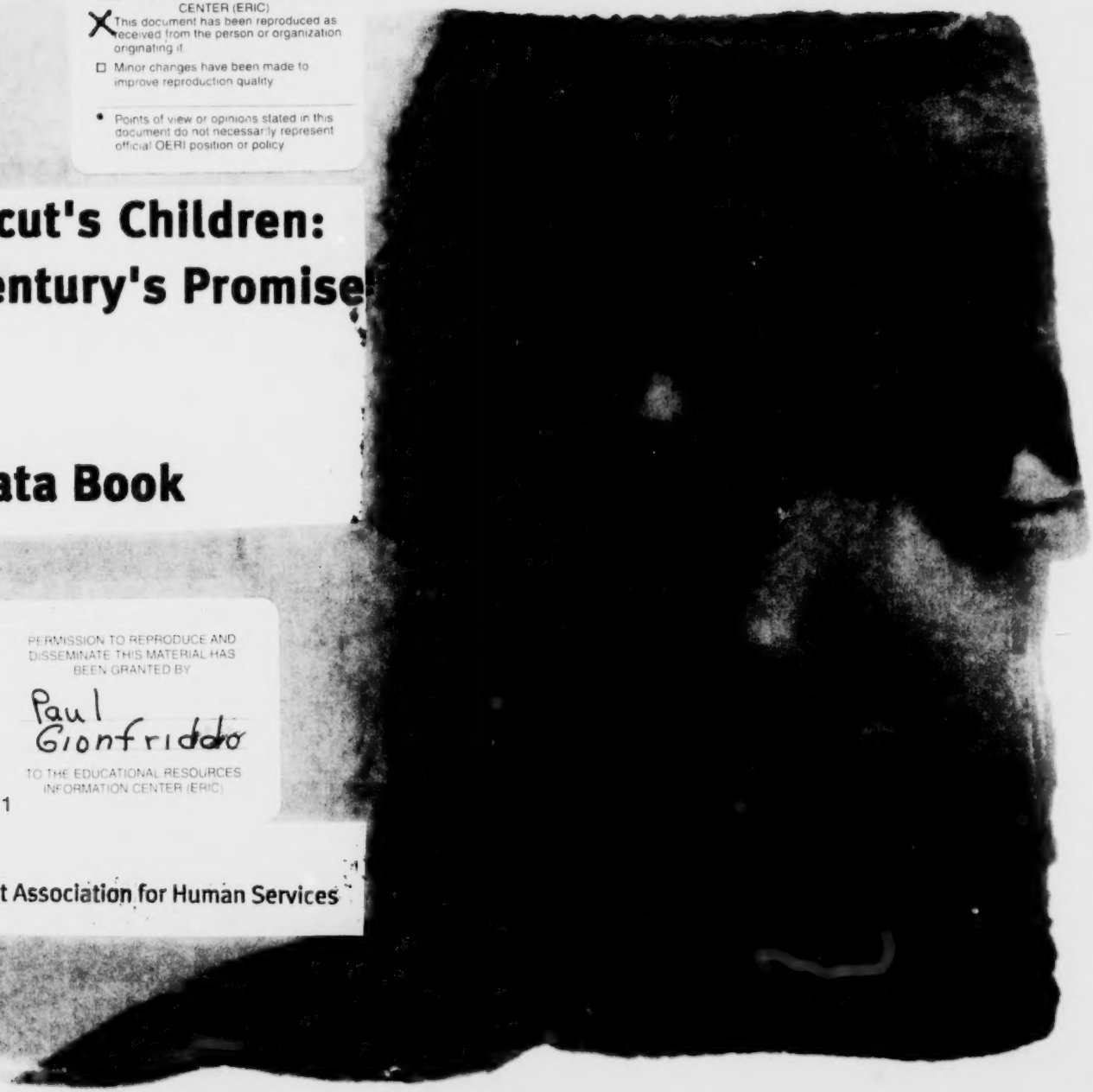
Connecticut's Children: A New Century's Promise

2000 Data Book



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CAHS

The Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS) is an independent nonprofit, research, public education and policy development organization committed to promoting the health and well-being of our state's residents – young and old alike. CAHS serves as a catalyst, working with diverse constituencies throughout the state to ensure the provision of human services that are of the highest quality, responsive to people's needs and cost effective.

Founded in 1910 as the Conference for Charities and Corrections, the Association was reorganized in 1974 as CAHS. Our membership includes concerned citizens, religious leaders, corporations, labor leaders, human services professionals and organizations, educators, and policy makers. We welcome your membership and support.

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Connecticut's Children: A New Century's Promise

2000 Data Book

Michelle Doucette Cunningham

CAHS
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— *Michelle Doucette Cunningham*
Author

How to Use This Book

1. On pages 2-7, read the overview "Connecticut's Children: A New Century's Promise" to understand how well kids have done during the past 100 years.

2. On page 5, analyze the well-being of Connecticut's children in recent years.

3. Locate your town or city on the index and map on pages 12-13 and identify your local region.

4. Use the Child Well-Being Indicators section (pages 11-42) to compare your region to other regions and to the state overall on specific measures of child well-being.

5. Find your region in the Regional Profiles section (using the regional table of contents on page 43) to look at all the measures for your region, and compare how well your region is doing to the state overall.

Every attempt has been made to make the data easy to understand and adaptable for use in a variety of activities including public information and education, media coverage, publication in professional journals and newsletters, speeches, workshops and conferences, and proposal writing.

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Connecticut's Children: A New Century's Promise

Introduction

We've come to the end of the century, and the beginning of a new millennium. It is fascinating and informative to look back 100 years and consider both the harsh realities of that time, and the promise that the new century held.

In 1900, when people looked around, they saw a world of true believers in the almost magical powers of science and technology. They saw waves of poor immigrants settling into new neighborhoods with the hope for a better life. They found a booming economy, built on cheap labor — soon to be organized into collective bargaining forces.

When the same people speculated on what the twentieth century would bring them, they could have guessed that revolutions in travel and communications were about to change the face of the world. They would have predicted — correctly in most instances — that these changes would lift more people to prosperity. What they could not have foreseen, however, was that the issues with which they were dealing — poverty too high, access to health care too limited, and educational systems that weren't meeting the needs of all children — were the same as those that would face their grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the year 2000.

Now, as then, improvements in communications and technology, it seems, come almost daily with the high tides. Now, as then, we have faith in the ability of our sciences to lift more of us to prosperity. Now, as then, however, while there is a great optimism about the future, the problems facing many of society's people with the greatest needs seem to be getting worse. Now, as then, the economy is booming, and yet the disparity between rich and poor has never been greater.

Could it be that 100 years from now, in the year 2100, the very same story will be told again? Or will we have finally solved some of the more plaguing problems of poverty and inequality of opportunity that so many of today's children and their families face?

At the turn of this century, we think it appropriate to take stock of where we are, where we've been, and where we're going. This book attempts to do just that, taking as its points of reference indicators of the well-being of Connecticut's children. Today's children will set the tone for this new century. Are they ready to meet the challenges that await? Are they well-educated, well-fed, and in good health? Are they safe? What kind of legacy have we adults left them?

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How were our children faring at the beginning of the past century?

While many of the issues we are facing today are similar to those our forebearers faced one hundred years ago, many changes in our state, nation and world have occurred since then. Tremendous progress has been made at improving the quality of life of the average American, children included. Let's look specifically at where we were . . .

Economics
Immigration, urbanization, industrialization and poverty characterized life for the majority of people in 1900. It was a time of great change in America with large numbers of people leaving the farm to move to American cities where expanding industry offered economic opportunity to unprecedented numbers of people, many of them immigrants. Factories and cities appeared almost overnight. In 1860, approximately 80 percent of the people lived in rural areas, but by 1920 nearly 60 percent lived in cities.

Yet this apparent economic opportunity left many people living in squalor, even with an average 52-hour work week. Approximately 40 percent of Americans were poor in 1900, with growing inequities between rich and poor. A national census taken in the summer of 1900 counted more than 76 million Americans — including four thousand millionaires. Turn of the century urban households spent half or more of their money on food.

Some of the greatest economic abuses centered on child labor. Hunger and poverty pulled children from the schools into the factories. In 1900, 40 percent of 14-18 year-old males and 18 percent of females the same age worked full-time. Even 18 percent of children ages 10-15 had full-time jobs. Children were considered property of their parents, with the child's earnings being the property of the parents as well.

Education
High school enrollment at the turn of the century was approximately 8 percent. While school attendance was compulsory in most places for younger children, school facilities were often badly lighted, poorly heated, and unsanitary. A class size of sixty was all too common.

The status of child care was even worse. While fewer women worked outside the home one hundred years ago (only 5 percent of married white women worked outside the home), the women who did so were often destitute, deserted by their husbands, and unable to turn to friends or relatives for aid. It was common for the youngest children of impoverished families to be locked in at home, in the care of only slightly older siblings, while their mothers worked. Privately funded "day nurseries" were just starting, but there were only about 200 of them in the entire United States at the turn of the century.

Health and Safety
Health status was substantially worse one hundred years ago. The medical profession as we know it did not exist. It was a time of snake oil salesmen offering to "cure whatever ails you." For the urban poor, public clinics might provide free care, but many people felt that they did more harm than good. Because there was no such thing as employer-sponsored health insurance, most families could not afford to see a private physician. Both poor access to care and poor care affected life expectancy. A child born in 1900 could expect to live only to the age of 47. Life expectancy was so low in part because infants and young children suffered so much from inadequate care. Out of every 1,000 babies born, 140 would die before their first birthday.

In terms of child safety, corporal punishment by parents and teachers was common. Children had no rights to protect themselves from abusive parents. Many youths ran away; many others were left to their own devices when their parents died. Orphanages were common throughout the U.S.

Racism

Even though slavery was dead, racism was growing at the turn of the century. The difference in the well-being of children of different races was staggering. Services of all types were segregated: schools, health care, orphanages, etc. While the "system" did little to help African-American children, the black community struggled to save its own. Nowhere was the issue of race more explosive than in the South, which was home to nine out of ten black Americans at the time. Although some progress was made after the Civil War, blacks saw many gains stripped away by poll taxes, literacy tests, and lynchings.

But racism was not only directed toward African-Americans. The turn of the century saw huge waves of immigrants — over a half-million people — arriving in the United States, most of whom were discriminated against in housing, employment, and education.

How are Connecticut's kids doing at the beginning of the twenty-first century?

On the surface, Connecticut's children appear to be much better off today than they were one hundred years ago. The infant mortality rate is down from 140 to six per thousand, an astounding improvement attributable both to improved public health practice and to outstanding neonatal intensive care. Families need to spend far less of their disposable income — about 20 percent — on food than the 50 percent they spent in 1900. Life expectancy for newborns has grown to 76 years, nearly thirty years longer than was the case 100 years ago.

While these improvements are truly dramatic, below the surface there are other stories to be told. In 1900, 40 percent of Americans were poor. In 2000, over half of Hartford's children live in poverty. What wealth there was in 1900 was more evenly distributed than it is in Connecticut today. The state has experienced the fastest growing disparity between rich and poor of any in the nation over the past twenty-five years. Children aged 10 to 15 are no longer forced to work; yet today one-third or more of Connecticut's teenagers drop out of school in Connecticut's poorest cities, without ever attaining the promise of a decent job at a living wage. One-third of Connecticut's high school juniors and seniors work more than 16 hours per week which, when added to their school responsibilities, totals four hours *more* than the average 52-hour workweek of the youth one hundred years ago.

A fairer statement of comparison about the two centuries may then be the following: The scope and nature of the problems of poverty have changed during the last 100 years, but the problems still remain. The underlying question, therefore, is the same today as it was then: In light of all the issues confronting our children, families and communities, are we preparing today's children to be tomorrow's leaders?

In this book, we attempt to answer that question by looking at measures of economic security, health, education, and safety for regions across Connecticut. What we find is that in many ways, Connecticut is still failing to provide the basics that children need.

- In terms of economic security, Connecticut includes some of the wealthiest families and the poorest families in the nation, often living only miles of each other. One in four Connecticut students is considered low-income (e.g., a family of three earning less than $25,000 a year.) The rising tide of prosperity is *not* lifting all boats, as many in Connecticut struggle to meet the basic need both to house and feed their families.

- Children's health in Connecticut has been improving in recent years for our youngest, but their physical well-being is still of great concern. With one in five children severely overweight, and fewer than one in three kids meeting basic physical fitness levels, we need to invest more in keeping our kids healthy, and in preventing the chronic diseases from which they will suffer as adults. The rate of low-weight births has been increasing steadily for the past fifteen years from

How Well Are Connecticut Children Doing Now?

	Indicator	Number	Rate	Recent Trend**	Regional data on page
Security	**Children Receiving Welfare (TFA)** percent of all children, June 1998	52,218	7.0%	Better	19
	Free/Reduced Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	135,706	25.3%	n/a	20
	High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week,1998	36,374	31.3%	Worse	21
	Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	3,578	8.3%	Worse	22
Health	**Low Birthweight** per 1,000 births, 1997	3,136	73.4 per 1,000	Worse	25
	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	306	7.0 per 1,000	Better	26
	Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	4,342	10.9%	Better	27
	Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4, 6, 8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	36,831	28.3%	Better	28
Education	**Preschool Experience** percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	30,547	72.0%	Better	31
	Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	13,049	33.8%	Better	32
	Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	8,840	22.9%	Better	33
	Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	4,930	15.3%	Better	34
	Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	8,639	26.8%	Better	35
	High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	4,963	3.5%	Better	36
Safety	**Child Abuse/Neglect** percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	16,705	2.2%	Better	39
	Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	142	24.1 per 100,000	Better	40
	Preventable Teen Deaths five year avg.1993-97	82	*	n/a	41
	Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	1,440	451.1 per 100,000	Worse	42

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. ** This data is a summary of the data presented in the rest of the book. The statewide trends shown here are for the most recent time period, most commonly five years. Please refer to the Child Well-Being Indicators section, pages 18-42 for more detail.

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6.4% of all births in 1983 to 7.3% in 1997. If this pattern continues, infant mortality will likely begin to climb again. We need to provide more services to pregnant women if we are to offset this trend. We need to do more, also, to reduce the large gap between children who grow up in low-income households without access to health care, and those in wealthier homes who benefit from quality preventive care.

- Connecticut's education system is one of the best in the nation overall, but many schools do not have the facilities and resources they need to serve kids well. Classrooms are still too crowded and teachers are still struggling to help children learn. Most disturbing is the large difference in student achievement between wealthy suburban schools and poorer urban schools. While progress is being made in addressing these issues, the picture painted by the statistics in this book is very disturbing: More than one in five (22.9%) sixth graders scored below remedial on either reading, writing or mathematics in 1998. In four of Connecticut's largest cities, the picture is more bleak: More than half of the sixth graders in these cities scored below remedial levels.

- The safety of all children remains an area of great concern. While great strides have been made over the past century at safeguarding children from harm, one preventable injury or death is one too many. Each year, thousands of children across the state become victims of child abuse and neglect, die of preventable causes, or commit violent crimes. Each instance is a heartbreaking door closed to a once bright future. It is essential that we keep our children safe from harm if efforts to improve the other measures of health, education or economic security are to have any meaning at all.

Some Good News and Some Bad....

Perhaps the best news to be found among the data in this book is that Connecticut is improving on all six measures of our children's educational well-being. Academic achievement on the Connecticut Mastery Tests and Academic Performance Tests has improved, with more students learning the basics, and more of them meeting high academic goals. Fewer students are dropping out of high school and more children regularly attend preschool.

Not all of these gains are equally shared across regions of the state, however, and there remains much work to be done by 21st century policy makers to assure equal educational opportunity for all students in the state. While the educational system in Connecticut still has serious flaws — especially noted in the tremendous gaps in student achievement between affluent and impoverished schools — we are at least headed in the right direction.

The worst news we have to share is in the striking difference in outcomes between children growing up in wealth and those in poverty in our state. The five largest cities in Connecticut scored worse than the statewide average on almost every single indicator, in many cases doing more than twice as poorly. Their poor outcomes on many of these indicators are linked directly to child poverty, and because poverty is concentrated in urban areas, these areas will see significantly worse rates than average. When this book combines the data for many smaller cities with their surrounding suburbs for the purposes of creating approximately equivalent regions, it may gently mask an important truth: Many small cities have problems similar to those of Connecticut's largest cities. Whether large or small, the reality of 2000 is that there are not enough local resources to deal with these problems in Connecticut cities of any size.

When the 2000 census data are released, we will have a better measure of poverty at the local level. Yet, based on currently-available information, statewide figures show that while welfare

rolls are decreasing, it appears that child poverty was actually increasing in the latter half of the 1990's. An extensive survey of emergency food sites and their clients conducted by CAHS last year found that the need for emergency food was rising, especially among children and working adults. Donations to soup kitchens and food pantries were level or down, but demand was up. In addition, the need for food among these working families and others went beyond a one-time emergency need. Many reported needing ongoing food assistance, signaling the existence of a chronic problem of food insecurity in Connecticut. It is known that hungry children are also at risk of other educational and health problems as a consequence of their hunger. Are these problems about to get worse in Connecticut?

The number of students who are eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals is the best available local level measure of the economic security of Connecticut families. At the start of the new century, one-quarter of Connecticut's children qulaify for these meals. In the wealthiest state in the world's wealthiest nation, this number is startling.

As we enter the new millennium . . .

We can and must do better by our children if we are to prepare them to lead us into the next millennium. At the close of the nineteenth century, newspapers and magazines predicted marvelous things for the next hundred years: Great airships would fly across the seas, wireless telephones would span the world, people would watch moving images in their own homes. Anything seemed possible. With ingenuity, hard work, and plenty of government support, these things happened.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, there were even predictions that the next hundred years would witness an end to poverty and war. For a variety of reasons, these things didn't happen.

Now, at the beginning of the 21st century, we have a choice. We can invest in our children the way we invest in our technology, or we can ask our children to make it on their own. With so many technological advances having come to pass, is it so hard to believe that we can make our children more prosperous too?

What will be the measures of our success in the 21st century? While it is too soon to know them all, we know today that one measure must be a healthy start to life and a secure childhood for every child. We have a long way to go to meet that goal. We hope that this book will help set the foundation upon which we must build.

Our Vision for Connecticut's Children

Every child should have the opportunity to develop to his or her full potential. In order for this opportunity to be guaranteed to every child, the following broad goals must be met:

Security

All children deserve a secure future and to grow up in an economically stable family.

Health

All children deserve to be free from hunger and preventable disease and to receive regular health care.

Education

All children deserve an education that prepares them for the future and inspires them to achieve their potential.

Safety

All children deserve to grow up in nurturing families free from abuse, violence and the devastation of alcohol and other drugs.

Underlying Principles

In order to achieve this vision for Connecticut's children, every segment of society will have to do its part. We believe that:

Families are the primary caregivers for children. Families have the first responsibility for the physical and emotional well-being of children. Families, as first teachers, provide the most basic education for children, from early verbal language skills to values and ethics. But despite their best efforts, it is hard for some families to raise their children without help — particularly when a dramatic reshaping of our economy has changed the rules of the game for many parents. Given these new economic and social realities, some families will require more assistance than others.

Communities are also responsible for the children in their midst. Some entities within the community, such as schools, have clearly defined roles. Others, including churches and civic organizations, have a responsibility to help children directly and raise the consciousness of the whole community about children's needs. Of late, some employers and businesses have begun to consider children and family issues as they explore current and future workforce concerns.

Government's responsibility for children is to be the bootstrap that guarantees equality of opportunity. Recognizing that not all families and communities will be equally well equipped to provide for children, government at all levels (local, state and federal) must help to balance the scales. The evidence is clear: Investing in government programs that work for children can assure them all a fair start in life.

Children must be given the opportunity to experience the richness of economic and ethnic diversity in their neighborhoods and in their schools. Through government policies on housing and innovative efforts to promote school integration, we must begin to break down the barriers that separate children along ethnic, racial and economic lines.

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Child Well-Being Indicators

Town Index

Region Map of Connecticut

Region Index

School District Description

Demographic Data

Family Setting

Children Receiving Welfare

Free or Reduced Price School

High School Graduation

Births to Teen Mothers

Low Birthweight

Infant Mortality

Late or No Prenatal Care

Physical Fitness Test

Preschool Experience

Connecticut Mastery Test

Connecticut Mastery Test

Reference Group

Connecticut Academic Performance Test

Reference Group

Connecticut Academic Performance Test

Reference Group

High School Dropout

Child Abuse

Child Health

Preventable Hospitalizations

Juvenile Arrests

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Town Index

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Ansonia	South Central I
Ashford	Northeast
Avon	Capitol II
Barkhamsted	Northwest
Beacon Falls	South Central I
Berlin	Central II
Bethany	South Central I
Bethel	Housatonic Valley
Bethlehem	Northwest
Bloomfield	Capitol II
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Bozrah	Southeast
Branford	South Central IV
Bridgeport	Bridgeport
Bridgewater	Northwest
Bristol	Central I
Brookfield	Housatonic Valley
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Canaan	Northwest
Canterbury	Northeast
Canton	Capitol II
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Cornwall	Northwest
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Cromwell	South Central V
Danbury	Housatonic Valley
Darien	Southwest II
Deep River	South Central V
Derby	South Central I
Durham	South Central V
East Granby	Capitol III
East Haddam	South Central V
East Hampton	South Central V
East Hartford	Capitol I
East Haven	South Central IV
East Lyme	Southeast Shore
East Windsor	Capitol III
Eastford	Northeast
Easton	Southwest IV
Ellington	Capitol V
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Farmington	Capitol IV
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New Fairfield	Housatonic Valley
New Hartford	Northwest
New Haven	New Haven
New London	Southeast Shore
New Milford	Northwest
Newington	Capitol IV
Newtown	Southwest IV
Norfolk	Northwest
North Branford	South Central IV
North Canaan	Northwest
North Haven	South Central I
North Stonington	Southeast
Norwalk	Southwest II
Norwich	Southeast
Old Lyme	Southeast
Old Saybrook	South Central V
Orange	South Central II
Oxford	Naugatuck Valley
Plainfield	Northeast
Plainville	Central II
Plymouth	Northwest
Pomfret	Northeast
Portland	South Central V
Preston	Southeast
Prospect	Naugatuck Valley
Putnam	Northeast
Redding	Southwest IV
Ridgefield	Housatonic Valley
Rocky Hill	Capitol IV
Roxbury	Northwest
Salem	Southeast
Salisbury	Northwest
Scotland	Northeast
Seymour	South Central I
Sharon	Northwest
Shelton	Southwest III
Sherman	Housatonic Valley
Simsbury	Capitol II
Somers	Capitol V
South Windsor	Capitol III
Southbury	Naugatuck Valley
Southington	Central I
Sprague	Southeast
Stafford	Capitol V
Stamford	Stamford
Sterling	Northeast
Stonington	Southeast Shore
Stratford	Southwest III
Suffield	Capitol III
Thomaston	Northwest
Thompson	Northeast
Tolland	Capitol V
Torrington	Northwest
Trumbull	Southwest III
Union	Capitol V
Vernon	Capitol V
Voluntown	Southeast
Wallingford	South Central III
Warren	Northwest
Washington	Northwest
Waterbury	Waterbury
Waterford	Southeast Shore
Watertown	Northwest
West Hartford	Capitol II
West Haven	South Central II
Westbrook	South Central V
Weston	Southwest I
Westport	Southwest II
Wethersfield	Capitol IV
Willington	Capitol V
Wilton	Southwest I
Winchester	Northwest
Windham	Northeast
Windsor	Capitol III
Windsor Locks	Capitol III
Wolcott	Naugatuck Valley
Woodbridge	South Central I
Woodbury	Northwest
Woodstock	Northeast

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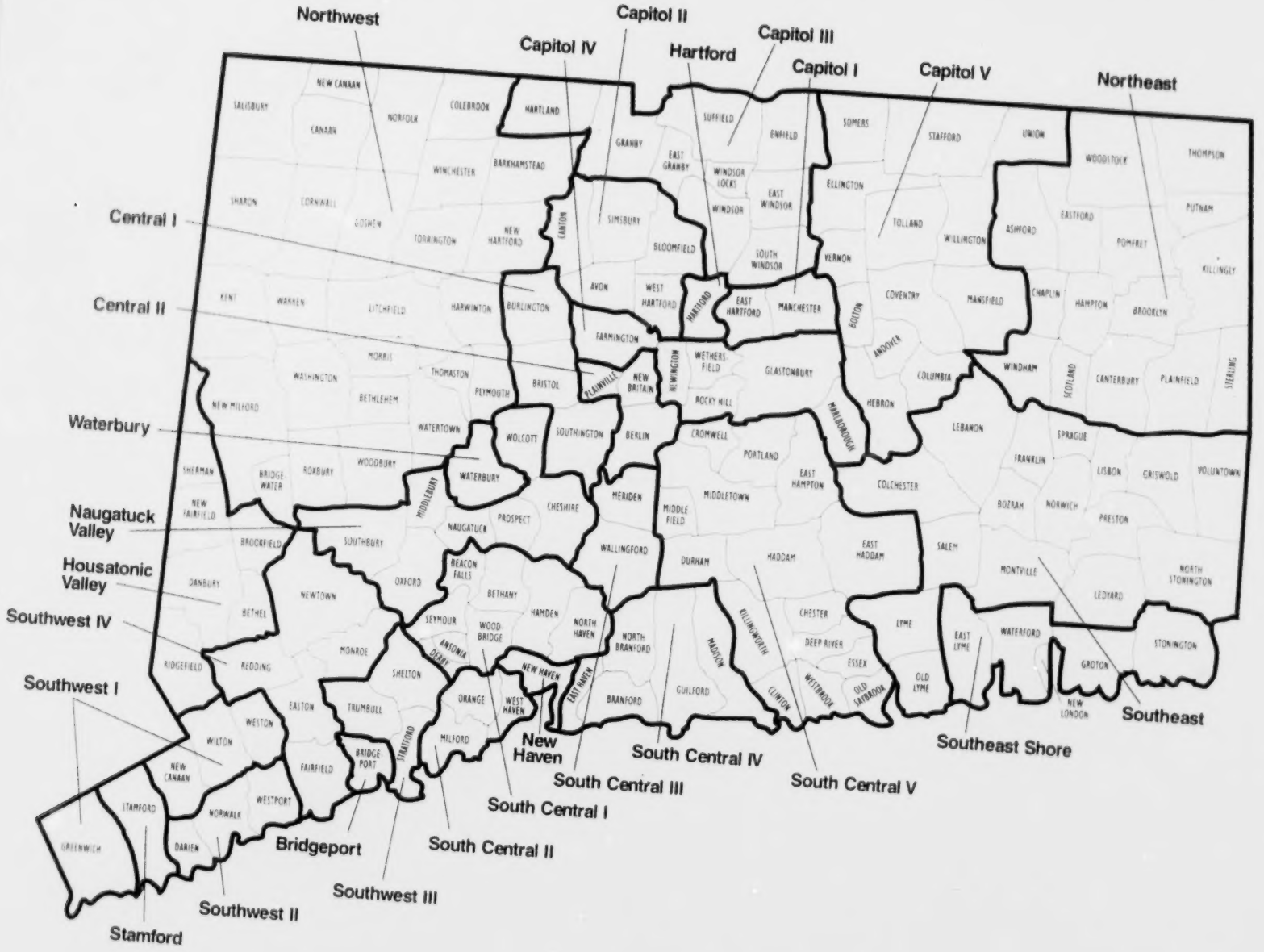

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Region Index

Bridgeport
Bridgeport

Capitol I
East Hartford
and Manchester

Capitol II
Avon, Bloomfield,
Canton, Simsbury
and West Hartford

Capitol III
East Granby,
East Windsor,
Enfield, Granby,
Hartland, South Windsor, Suffield,
Windsor and Windsor Locks

Capitol IV
Farmington,
Glastonbury,
Marlborough,
Newington, Rocky Hill
and Wethersfield

Capitol V
Andover, Bolton,
Columbia, Coventry,
Ellington, Hebron,
Mansfield, Somers, Stafford,
Tolland, Union, Vernon and
Willington

Central I
Bristol,
Burlington and
Southington

Central II
Berlin,
New Britain
and Plainville

Hartford
Hartford

Housatonic Valley
Bethel, Brookfield,
Danbury,
New Fairfield,
Ridgefield and Sherman

Naugatuck Valley
Cheshire,
Middlebury,
Naugatuck,
Oxford, Prospect, Southbury
and Wolcott

New Haven
New Haven

Northeast
Ashford, Brooklyn,
Canterbury,
Chaplin, Eastford,
Hampton, Killingly,
Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam,
Scotland, Sterling, Thompson,
Windham and Woodstock

Northwest
Barkhamstead,
Bethlehem,
Bridgewater,
Canaan, Colebrook,
Cornwall, Goshen, Harwinton, Kent,
Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, New
Milford, Norfolk, North
Canaan, Plymouth, Roxbury,
Salisbury, Sharon, Thomaston,
Torrington, Warren, Washington,
Watertown, Winchester and
Woodbury

South Central I
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Falls, Bethany,
Derby, Hamden,
North Haven,
Seymour and Woodbridge

South Central II
Milford, Orange
and West Haven

South Central III
Meriden and
Wallingford

South Central IV
Branford,
East Haven,
Guilford,
Madison and
North Branford

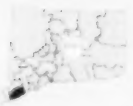
South Central V
Chester, Clinton,
Cromwell,
Deep River,
Durham,
East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex,
Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield,
Middletown,
Old Saybrook, Portland
and Westbrook

Southeast
Bozrah,
Colchester,
Franklin,
Griswold, Lebanon,
Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Montville,
North Stonington, Norwich,Old
Lyme, Preston, Salem, Sprague and
Voluntown

Southeast Shore
East Lyme, Groton, New London, Stonington and Waterford

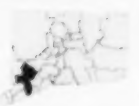
Southwest I
Greenwich, New Canaan, Weston and Wilton

Southwest II
Darien, Norwalk and Westport



Southwest III
Shelton, Stratford and Trumbull

Southwest IV
Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Newtown and Redding



Stamford
Stamford

Waterbury
Waterbury

School District Exceptions

Region	Students from Other Towns
Capitol V	includes Ashford students who attend Region 19
Capitol V	includes Marlborough students who attend Region 8
Central I	includes Harwinton students who who attend Region 10
Housatonic Valley	includes Sherman students who attend Brookfield
Northeast	includes Columbia and Willington students who attend Windham
Naugatuck Valley	includes students from Beacon Falls who attend Naugatuck
Northwest	includes Hartland students who attend Gilbert
Northwest	includes Sherman students who attend New Milford
Northwest	inclues Oxford students who attend Region 14
South Central I	includes Oxford and Prospect students who attend Seymour and Orange students who attend Region 5
Southeast	includes Canterbury students who attend Norwich or Griswold
Southeast Shore	includes Salem students who attend East Lyme

Region	Regional School Districts
Capitol V	Region 8
	Region 19
Central I	Region 10
Naugatuck Valley	Region 15
	Region 16
Northeast	Region 11
Northwest	Region 1
	Region 6
	Region 7
	Region 12
	Region 14
South Central I	Region 5
South Central V	Region 4
	Region 13
	Region 17
Southeast	Region 18
Southwest IV	Region 9

Region	Private/Public Schools
Northwest	Gilbert School
Northeast	Woodstock Academy
Southeast	Norwich Free Academy

Region	Vocational-Technical Schools
Bridgeport	Bullard-Havens
Capitol I	Howell Cheney
Central II	E.C. Goodwin
Hartford	A.I. Prince
Housatonic Valley	Henry Abbott
Northeast	H.H. Ellis
Northwest	Oliver Wolcott
South Central I	Eli Whitney Emmett O'Brien
South Central II	Platt
South Central III	H.C. Wilcox
South Central V	Vinal
Southeast	Norwich
Southeast Shore	E.T. Grasso
Stamford	J.M. Wright
Waterbury	W.F. Kaynor

Note: These exceptions only affect the data for high school dropouts. They do not affect the data for the Connecticut Mastery Test or the Connecticut Academic Performance Tests. Charter and magnet schools are not included in any region.

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Connecticut's Children Demographic Data

REGION NAME	1998 Total Population	1998 Population Under 18	1990 Percent Under 18	1990 Percent White	1990 Percent Black	1990 Percent All Other Races	1990 Percent Hispanic*
Northwest	181,277	42,400	23.4	97.0	1.2	1.9	1.5
Housatonic Valley	137,064	32,583	23.8	90.1	4.1	5.9	5.5
Stamford	110,689	22,304	20.1	64.9	27.1	7.9	12.8
Southwest I	101,882	22,424	22.0	93.1	1.9	5.0	3.6
Southwest II	120,370	25,010	20.8	80.2	13.9	6.0	9.8
Bridgeport	137,425	35,880	26.1	45.0	34.1	20.9	38.2
Southwest III	120,245	26,067	21.7	91.0	5.8	3.2	4.0
Southwest IV	110,687	25,079	22.7	96.6	1.0	2.4	2.4
Waterbury	105,346	24,713	23.5	69.3	18.1	12.6	22.6
Naugatuck Valley	111,569	26,902	24.1	96.0	1.7	2.3	2.4
South Central I	137,354	28,756	20.9	89.7	7.0	3.2	2.9
New Haven	123,189	29,209	23.7	34.0	51.6	14.3	21.6
South Central II	114,092	24,551	21.5	87.7	8.9	3.4	3.9
South Central III	97,665	22,899	23.4	88.6	4.3	7.1	14.9
South Central IV	104,289	23,096	22.1	97.2	1.0	1.8	1.9
South Central V	150,034	32,900	21.9	90.8	6.4	2.8	3.4
Central I	105,733	24,420	23.1	95.5	2.2	2.3	3.2
Central II	104,508	22,275	21.3	76.6	8.3	15.0	22.3
Hartford	131,523	36,133	27.5	24.7	44.2	31.1	46.7
Capitol I	99,026	20,366	20.6	84.4	9.9	5.7	6.7
Capitol II	118,926	24,957	21.0	85.2	10.4	4.4	3.6
Capitol III	142,554	32,966	23.1	91.0	5.7	3.3	2.6
Capitol IV	125,930	25,679	20.4	94.7	1.8	3.5	2.7
Capitol V	131,831	29,712	22.5	95.4	1.7	2.9	2.1
Northeast	105,121	27,031	25.7	93.7	1.3	5.0	6.8
Southeast	130,323	32,749	25.1	93.6	3.4	3.1	2.8
Southeast Shore	115,417	25,218	21.8	83.5	9.5	6.9	7.8
CONNECTICUT	3,274,069	746,279	22.8	81.3	11.4	7.3	10.3

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Connecticut Department of Public Health.

* Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Family Setting of Connecticut's Children

REGION NAME	Two-Parent Families #	Two-Parent Families %	Single-Parent Families #	Single-Parent Families %	Children Living in Other Situations #	Children Living in Other Situations %
Northwest	32,939	80.9	5,256	12.9	2,524	6.2
Housatonic Valley	26,103	82.0	3,915	12.3	1,808	5.7
Stamford	14,789	67.9	4,719	21.7	2,265	10.4
Southwest I	19,241	86.6	2,054	9.2	922	4.1
Southwest II	19,088	76.0	3,953	15.7	2,087	8.3
Bridgeport	17,381	47.0	14,569	39.4	5,042	13.6
Southwest III	20,705	81.8	2,867	11.3	1,753	6.9
Southwest IV	20,740	86.9	2,026	8.5	1,098	4.6
Waterbury	15,208	59.5	8,022	31.4	2,331	9.1
Naugatuck Valley	22,106	84.5	2,610	10.0	1,430	5.5
South Central I	22,814	79.4	4,042	14.1	1,865	6.5
New Haven	11,951	38.6	14,359	46.4	4,626	15.0
South Central II	18,957	75.4	4,259	16.9	1,915	7.6
South Central III	17,325	73.7	4,800	20.4	1,392	5.9
South Central IV	18,586	82.2	2,610	11.5	1,410	6.2
South Central Shore	24,233	77.2	4,704	15.0	2,464	7.8
Central I	19,676	80.2	3,581	14.6	1,267	5.2
Central II	15,167	64.9	6,350	27.2	1,858	7.9
Hartford	11,638	30.3	21,463	55.9	5,289	13.8
Capitol I	14,858	70.8	4,650	22.2	1,484	7.1
Capitol II	21,656	83.3	3,007	11.6	1,321	5.1
Capitol III	27,429	81.9	3,881	11.6	2,185	6.5
Capitol IV	21,550	84.2	2,911	11.4	1,122	4.4
Capitol V	23,784	82.0	3,731	12.9	1,491	5.1
Northeast	19,348	73.4	5,233	19.8	1,782	6.8
Southeast	25,569	77.6	5,263	16.0	2,108	6.4
Southeast Shore	20,353	75.2	4,867	18.0	1,846	6.8
CONNECTICUT	543,194	72.5	149,702	20.0	56,685	7.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990.

= Lower percentage of children living in two-parent families than state-wide rate.

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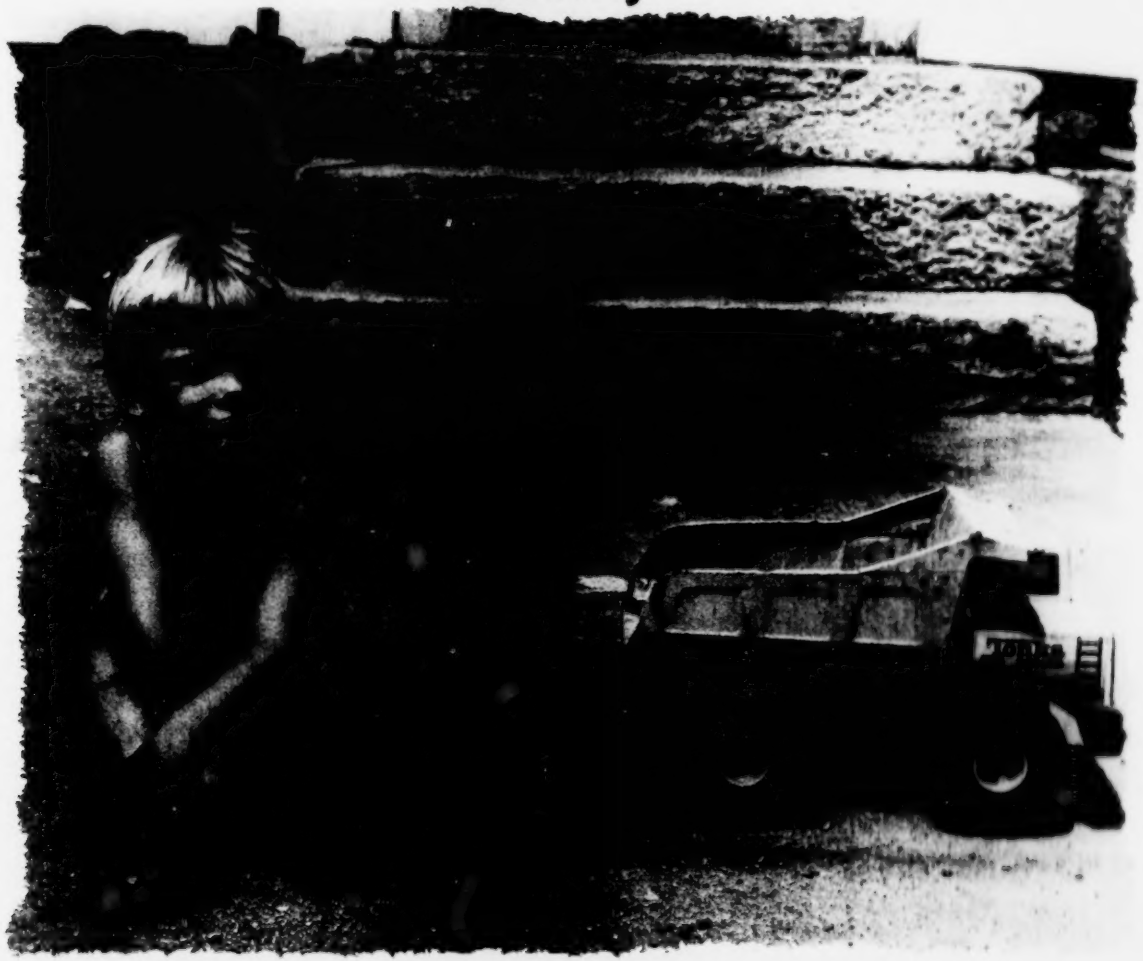

Our Vision:

All children deserve a secure future and to grow up in an economically stable family.

Children Receiving Welfare (TFA)

Definition

The Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program provides cash assistance to impoverished families with children who meet certain criteria. This is the program most commonly thought of as "welfare" in Connecticut. The number shown here is the number of children receiving benefits in June of 1997 and 1998.

Size of the problem

There are 52,218 children receiving TFA benefits in Connecticut (7.0% of the child population) a decrease of more than a quarter from the year before. However, because not every child who is poor receives TFA benefits, it is only a measure of program participation and cannot be used as a complete measure of child poverty. Other measures (see next page) show that more than twice as many children who get TFA are eligible for free lunches, a more accurate measure of the economic security of school-age children.

Impact

Children are poor because they live with adults who are poor. Education, race, age and marital status are the factors that most affect family income. Children living in poverty are more likely to have learning disabilities, emotional and behavioral problems, experience school failure, and be at risk for teenage childbearing, child abuse and neglect, crime and delinquency.

Solutions

More living wage jobs, job training opportunities, improved transportation and availability of quality child care, and increased availability of substance abuse treatment programs will reduce the need for welfare. Continuing to improve child support collections will help children while reducing government expenditures in the future.

REGION NAME	June 1997 #	June 1997 %	June 1998 #	June 1998 %	% Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	1,095	2.6	771	1.8	-31	+
Housatonic Valley	1,108	3.4	693	2.1	-38	+
Stamford	1,673	7.5	1,022	4.6	-39	+
Southwest I	148	0.7	102	0.5	-29	+
Southwest II	1,492	6.0	1,029	4.1	-32	+
Bridgeport	9,754	27.1	6,490	18.1	-33	+
Southwest III	808	3.1	567	2.2	-29	+
Southwest IV	219	0.9	140	0.6	-33	+
Waterbury	5,628	22.6	3,772	15.3	-32	+
Naugatuck Valley	695	2.6	439	1.6	-38	+
South Central I	1,839	6.4	1,416	4.9	-23	+
New Haven	10,572	35.9	8,455	28.9	-19	+
South Central II	2,244	9.1	1,533	6.2	-32	+
South Central III	2,500	10.9	1,844	8.1	-26	+
South Central IV	710	3.1	543	2.4	-23	+
South Central V	1,182	3.6	846	2.6	-28	+
Central I	1,084	4.5	840	3.4	-24	+
Central II	4,060	18.2	3,242	14.6	-20	+
Hartford	14,639	40.4	10,283	28.5	-29	+
Capitol I	2,549	12.5	1,930	9.5	-24	+
Capitol II	913	3.7	290	1.2	-68	+
Capitol III	1,131	3.5	777	2.4	-31	+
Capitol IV	492	1.9	317	1.2	-37	+
Capitol V	892	3.0	642	2.2	-27	+
Northeast	2,147	7.9	1,549	5.7	-28	+
Southeast	1,633	4.9	1,192	3.6	-27	+
Southeast Shore	2,034	7.8	1,494	5.9	-24	+
CONNECTICUT	73,241	9.8	52,218	7.0	-29	+

Source: Connecticut Department of Social Services

= Worse than state-wide rate.

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Free or Reduced-Price School Meals

REGION NAME	Free Meals	Reduced-Price Meals	Total 1998-99 #	Total 1998-99 %
Northwest	2,124	1,054	3,178	10.9
Housatonic Valley	2,928	682	3,610	15.4
Stamford	4,344	791	5,135	34.8
Southwest I	409	172	581	3.4
Southwest II	2,175	594	2,769	14.9
Bridgeport	18,435	3,271	21,706	94.1
Southwest III	1,626	738	2,364	13.1
Southwest IV	362	228	590	3.1
Waterbury	8,195	1,336	9,531	59.9
Naugatuck Valley	1,300	746	2,046	9.8
South Central I	2,675	851	3,526	15.9
New Haven	9,930	843	10,773	57.5
South Central II	3,394	1,231	4,625	27.7
South Central III	3,253	1,233	4,486	27.3
South Central IV	1,120	615	1,735	10.1
South Central V	2,167	845	3,012	13.2
Central I	1,581	664	2,245	12.8
Central II	5,271	1,055	6,326	38.4
Hartford	18,996	1,175	20,171	88.3
Capitol I	3,432	959	4,391	28.2
Capitol II	1,633	636	2,269	11.3
Capitol III	1,959	736	2,695	10.9
Capitol IV	830	358	1,188	5.9
Capitol V	1,774	772	2,546	11.7
Northeast	3,976	1,071	5,047	26.7
Southeast	2,531	988	3,519	15.1
Southeast Shore	2,996	1,050	4,046	22.7
Charter/Magnet Schools	1,355	241	1,596	47.0
CONNECTICUT	110,771	24,935	135,706	25.3

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education = Worse than state-wide rate.

Note: The 1998-99 school year was the first year which data was collected for *eligibility* for free or reduced-price school meals, as opposed to *program participation*. Therefore this data is not comparable to previous years' data, and region to region comparisons should be made with caution.

Definition

Students whose families earn less than 130% of the federal poverty level (FPL), or $21,710 for a family of four, are eligible for free school meals. Students whose families earn between 130% and 185% of the FPL ($30,895 for a family of four) are eligible for reduced-price meals. These data are shown as a percentage of total school enrollment for the 1998-99 school year.

Size of the problem

One-quarter (110,771 or 25.3%) of all Connecticut students were eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals. Although not truly a measure of child poverty, this indicator is the most accurate measure of the number of school-age children living in low-income families that is available annually on a local level in Connecticut.

Impact

In addition to the causes of poverty listed under the "Children Receiving Welfare" heading, it is important to note that most low-income families have at least one parent working full-time. This shift toward "working but poor" is one of the most striking changes in Connecticut family poverty in the past thirty years.

Although not every child eligible for free meals can be classified as poor, children living in poverty are more likely to have learning disabilities, emotional and behavioral problems, experience school failure, and be at risk for teenage childbearing, child abuse and neglect, crime and delinquency.

Solutions

In addition to improved job training opportunities and child support collections, increasing the minimum wage would help many of Connecticut's low-income families raise their children. In addition, there are many changes to Connecticut's tax code which would help lower-income working parents. Availability of quality child care, including before- and after-school care, is also crucial if struggling parents are going to be able to stay employed.

High School Employment

Definition

The number of high school juniors and seniors who work more than 16 hours per week, shown as a percentage of students who responded to the survey.

Size of the problem

Almost one-third (31.3%) of all high school juniors and seniors reported working more than 16 hours per week.

Impact

Work experiences during the teen years are often very positive introductions into the world of work, teaching young people responsibility and money management. However, a consequence of employment is often a decline in school performance. The primary job of high school students should be to complete their education, yet many jeopardize their school success by working long hours at jobs to earn money.

High school students work excessive hours (here defined as more than 16 hours per week) primarily because they need the income, either to help maintain their household, save for college or a car, or for spending-money for clothes and recreation. However, their ability to work also requires that there be jobs available and that the youth have transportation to and from work.

Solutions

Any steps to increase family economic security would likely allow students to focus more on their school work rather than earning money.

REGION NAME	Fall 1997 #	Fall 1997 %	Fall 1998 #	Fall 1998 %	% Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	1,236	36.1	1,248	34.1	-6	+
Housatonic Valley	894	31.6	998	33.1	5	-
Stamford	507	30.3	604	36.0	19	-
Southwest I	350	18.6	301	16.3	-12	+
Southwest II	434	23.0	447	24.4	6	-
Bridgeport	506	32.1	632	36.7	14	-
Southwest III	704	31.4	711	33.8	8	-
Southwest IV	618	29.2	554	26.3	-10	+
Waterbury	315	23.6	400	30.9	31	-
Naugatuck Valley	648	30.9	638	27.7	-10	+
South Central I	843	32.2	904	30.9	-4	+
New Haven	129	13.2	305	15.6	18	-
South Central II	670	41.6	683	44.0	6	-
South Central III	552	34.5	678	35.5	3	-
South Central IV	712	34.0	732	32.6	-4	+
South Central V	779	33.1	835	34.0	3	-
Central I	586	27.7	675	33.5	21	-
Central II	584	33.6	631	36.8	10	-
Hartford	365	21.2	374	35.3	67	-
Capitol I	632	36.1	671	35.1	-3	+
Capitol II	487	21.6	538	22.4	4	-
Capitol III	882	30.0	944	30.1	1	-
Capitol IV	487	22.7	618	26.7	18	-
Capitol V	945	36.0	837	31.4	-13	+
Northeast	797	36.5	882	40.3	10	-
Southeast	920	32.5	990	32.1	-1	+
Southeast Shore	651	31.1	714	33.1	6	-
Charter/Magnet Schools	26	12.4	56	36.6	195	-
CONNECTICUT	33,825	30.4	36,374	31.3	3	-

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education

= Worse than state-wide rate

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Births to Teen Mothers

REGION NAME	1987 #	1987 %	1992 #	1992 %	1997 #	1997 %	'92-'97 % Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	114	5.1	116	5.2	119	6.2	19	-
Housatonic Valley	88	4.6	84	4.0	82	4.1	2	-
Stamford	124	7.8	99	5.5	110	6.2	13	-
Southwest I	15	1.5	8	0.6	16	1.2	100	-
Southwest II	106	6.1	88	4.5	85	4.3	-4	+
Bridgeport	523	18.4	503	17.9	423	18.4	3	-
Southwest III	59	4.3	50	3.6	69	4.8	33	-
Southwest IV	28	2.3	15	1.2	16	1.1	-8	+
Waterbury	279	14.8	274	13.7	265	16.2	18	-
Naugatuck Valley	65	4.8	53	4.0	45	3.6	-10	+
South Central I	72	3.9	80	4.5	62	4.0	-11	+
New Haven	436	18.7	376	16.9	335	18.7	11	-
South Central II	110	6.7	94	6.0	81	5.6	-7	+
South Central III	103	6.7	141	9.2	138	9.9	8	-
South Central IV	43	3.7	35	2.6	38	3.0	15	-
South Central V	115	6.1	94	4.6	95	4.9	7	-
Central I	90	5.9	88	6.2	90	6.9	11	-
Central II	170	10.4	174	11.0	190	14.8	35	-
Hartford	677	22.2	712	23.5	518	23.0	-2	+
Capitol I	96	6.9	84	5.9	130	10.0	69	-
Capitol II	36	2.6	47	3.3	53	3.8	15	-
Capitol III	63	3.3	79	4.1	97	5.5	34	-
Capitol IV	31	2.3	23	1.7	29	2.1	24	-
Capitol V	113	6.5	58	3.6	65	4.6	28	-
Northeast	157	11.3	136	9.6	152	12.1	26	-
Southeast	162	8.1	131	7.3	140	8.8	21	-
Southeast Shore	149	7.5	178	9.5	135	8.4	-12	+
CONNECTICUT	4,023	8.6	3,820	8.0	3,578	8.3	4	-

Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health

= Worse than state-wide rate

Definition

This indicator tracks the number of babies born to women age 19 or younger, and is expressed as a percentage of all live births.

Size of the problem

There were 3,578 babies born to teenage mothers in 1997.

Impact

Two primary factors are involved in teen births: the number of teenage girls who get pregnant, and the number of teens who choose to carry the fetus to term. Studies suggest that as many as 85% of teen pregnancies are unintended.

Being poor without the hope of alternative life choices increases the likelihood of teen pregnancy. Teens who exhibit problem behavior in school are more likely to end up teen mothers. Girls whose friends and siblings are already mothers are also more likely to become teenage mothers. Lack of information and access to birth control also increases the likelihood of unintended pregnancy.

Children are more likely to be born to teen mothers in urban and poor areas of Connecticut. Black and Hispanic teens are disproportionately represented. Twenty-three percent of all Hispanic births and 18% of all black births are to women age 19 or younger while only 4% of all white births are in that same age group.

Research indicates that children of teen mothers are more likely to grow up poor and rely on public assistance. They are also at a greater risk of lower intellectual and academic achievement, behavior problems and early child bearing than children of older mothers.

Solutions

There are numerous successful teen pregnancy prevention programs in Connecticut. These programs must be better funded and new programs created if we are to reduce the rate of births to teen mothers.

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Health

Our Vision:

All children deserve to be free from hunger and preventable disease and to receive regular health care.

Low Birthweight

Definition

Low birthweight, defined as under 5½ pounds (2,500 grams), is a major factor in infant mortality. It is reported as a rate per 1,000 live births.

Size of the problem

3,136 babies were born in Connecticut in 1997 who weighed less than 5½ pounds. This translates to 73.4 per 1000 births or 7% of all births. The percentage of all infants who are born too small has increased over the past decade. Connecticut ranks 21st in the nation on this measure.

Impact

Nearly two-thirds of low-weight births are caused by cigarette smoking during pregnancy, low maternal weight gain and low maternal weight before pregnancy. Teenagers and women living in poverty are at greater risk of experiencing low-weight births.

Despite being a fraction of all births, low-weight births account for more than one-third of all dollars spent on health care for infants. In their first year, low-weight infants on average have health costs which are six times greater than those of normal weight infants.

Solutions

Increasing the number of healthy pregnancies will have the greatest impact on low-weight births. Strategies should include promoting positive prenatal lifestyles, specifically smoking cessation during pregnancy, and increasing access to quality prenatal care that includes early risk assessment and health promotion.

REGION NAME	1987 #	1987 Rate	1992 #	1992 Rate	1997 #	1997 Rate	92-97 Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	116	52.3	129	57.8	101	52.6	-9	+
Housatonic Valley	95	49.7	119	56.4	132	67.2	19	-
Stamford	115	73.9	113	63.9	125	71.6	12	-
Southwest I	41	44.0	59	51.4	91	73.3	42	-
Southwest II	126	74.6	117	62.3	138	72.3	16	-
Bridgeport	317	111.6	258	92.0	223	97.1	6	-
Southwest III	52	38.3	72	51.6	79	55.4	7	-
Southwest IV	54	45.2	71	56.8	83	55.4	-2	+
Waterbury	140	74.2	180	90.0	150	91.9	2	-
Naugatuck Valley	75	55.2	68	51.1	44	34.9	-32	+
South Central I	98	52.6	111	62.0	93	59.5	-4	+
New Haven	243	104.6	246	111.0	193	107.9	-3	+
South Central II	94	57.1	94	59.6	105	72.9	22	-
South Central III	92	60.1	98	63.8	82	58.7	-8	+
South Central IV	55	47.0	66	49.5	89	71.3	44	-
South Central V	93	49.0	112	55.1	140	72.6	32	-
Central I	110	72.1	84	59.4	81	62.5	5	-
Central II	126	76.7	135	84.9	118	91.8	8	-
Hartford	374	122.7	404	133.4	269	119.7	-10	+
Capitol I	64	46.7	106	74.5	105	81.1	9	-
Capitol II	74	52.7	81	57.4	93	67.5	17	-
Capitol III	110	58.2	115	59.4	123	69.8	18	-
Capitol IV	59	43.4	63	45.7	82	59.4	30	-
Capitol V	105	60.5	94	58.7	93	66.5	13	-
Northeast	80	57.6	68	48.1	85	67.8	41	-
Southeast	100	50.3	91	50.6	118	74.6	47	-
Southeast Shore	110	55.6	115	61.6	101	63.1	3	-
CONNECTICUT	3,118	66.8	3,269	69.2	3,136	73.4	6	-

Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health

+ = Worse than state-wide rate

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Infant Mortality

REGION NAME	1985-87 Annual Avg. #	1985-87 Annual Avg. Rate	1990-92 Annual Avg. #	1990-92 Annual Avg. Rate	1995-97 Annual Avg. #	1995-97 Annual Avg. Rate	'92-'97 % Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	11	5.3	14	6.1	8	4.0	-34	+
Housatonic Valley	10	5.4	11	5.3	8	4.1	-23	+
Stamford	9	6.0	12	6.1	7	4.1	-33	+
Southwest I	5	*	5	*	8	5.6	n/a	
Southwest II	11	6.6	11	5.6	8	4.1	-27	+
Bridgeport	35	12.6	37	12.6	24	10.6	-16	+
Southwest III	9	6.8	8	5.9	7	4.8	-19	+
Southwest IV	9	7.2	6	5.0	7	4.7	-6	+
Waterbury	21	11.6	20	9.7	15	8.6	-11	+
Naugatuck Valley	8	5.9	9	6.4	7	5.2	-19	+
South Central I	11	6.5	10	5.5	10	6.0	9	-
New Haven	42	18.5	27	11.5	21	11.4	-1	+
South Central II	12	7.6	11	6.8	11	7.4	9	-
South Central III	10	7.0	9	5.9	4	*	n/a	
South Central IV	7	5.9	8	5.9	4	*	n/a	
South Central V	14	7.7	13	6.2	15	7.7	24	-
Central I	11	7.4	8	5.5	5	*	n/a	
Central II	18	11.7	15	9.4	13	9.8	4	-
Hartford	48	16.1	44	14.1	33	14.4	2	-
Capitol I	13	10.1	11	7.4	9	7.0	-5	+
Capitol II	10	7.7	8	6.0	12	8.2	37	-
Capitol III	14	7.7	11	5.7	11	6.3	11	-
Capitol IV	9	7.3	9	6.6	10	6.8	3	-
Capitol V	16	9.4	11	6.5	14	9.3	43	-
Northeast	13	9.6	9	6.4	11	8.1	27	-
Southeast	19	9.8	13	6.6	14	8.1	23	-
Southeast Shore	20	10.5	19	9.7	11	6.8	-30	+
CONNECTICUT	417	9.2	370	7.6	306	7.0	-8	+

Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health

= Worse than state-wide rate.
* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate.

Definition

The infant mortality rate provides a general measure of Connecticut's maternal and child health status. It is reported as the number of infants deaths (under one year of age) per 1,000 live births.

Size of the problem

In Connecticut, 310 infants died in 1997 before their first birthday. Recent decreases in the rate of infant deaths continues an improving trend over the last decade. Nationally, Connecticut ranks 16th on this health measure.

Impact

Birth defects, sudden infant death syndrome, low birthweight, premature birth, and respiratory distress syndrome are the leading causes of infant deaths. Infant mortality rates are higher for teenage mothers, mothers with fewer years of education, unmarried mothers and mothers who smoked during pregnancy.

Each infant death is a tragedy for parents, siblings and other family members, and represents a great cost to families and society in terms of lost potential and productivity. Direct medical costs include charges for physician care of infants suffering birth complications and rehospitalization.

Solutions

Policies that emphasize healthier pregnancies and reduce low-weight births and premature deliveries — such as universal access to quality prenatal care and substance abuse counseling — will lower the infant mortality rate. Continued advances in medical care will also improve the survival rates of at-risk infants.

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Late or No Prenatal Care

Definition

Late prenatal care is defined as medical care that begins after the first three months or trimester of pregnancy. These data represent the number of births receiving late or no prenatal care, and are shown as a percentage of all births.

Size of the problem

One out of every ten (4,342) babies received late or no prenatal care in 1997. This is an improvement over recent years.

Impact

Lack of health insurance, transportation issues, and lack of education as to the benefits of early prenatal care all contribute to this problem. Poor women, very young women and poorly educated women are least likely to receive prenatal care in their first three months of pregnancy. The Black and Hispanic communities are disproportionately affected by this problem.

Babies born to women who receive early prenatal care are less at risk of low birthweight, sickness, or dying in their first year. Women who do not receive routine care during their pregnancies are approximately three times as likely to deliver low birthweight infants as those who do. Early prenatal care is a cost-effective means to reduce problems later in life which are associated with early birth and health problems. The National Institute of Medicine estimates that for every dollar invested in prenatal care, $3.38 will be saved for the care of low birthweight babies in their first year of life.

REGION NAME	1992 #	1992 %	1997 #	1997 %	% Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	247	11.6	143	7.8	-33	+
Housatonic Valley	132	6.3	111	5.7	-10	+
Stamford	384	22.3	279	16.8	-25	+
Southwest I	52	4.9	58	5.0	2	-
Southwest II	289	16.4	152	8.4	-49	+
Bridgeport	340	15.0	486	20.8	39	-
Southwest III	64	5.6	76	5.9	5	-
Southwest IV	39	3.5	43	3.1	-11	+
Waterbury	652	36.0	340	23.2	-36	+
Naugatuck Valley	193	15.2	87	7.3	-52	+
South Central I	167	9.8	123	8.2	-16	+
New Haven	497	25.9	338	21.8	-16	+
South Central II	132	9.0	125	9.3	3	-
South Central III	217	14.4	240	17.5	22	-
South Central IV	85	6.7	69	5.8	-13	+
South Central V	137	6.9	198	10.7	55	-
Central I	120	9.7	96	9.0	-7	+
Central II	162	10.8	225	18.5	71	-
Hartford	475	18.6	211	10.9	-41	+
Capitol I	99	7.5	113	9.4	25	-
Capitol II	57	4.2	70	5.5	31	-
Capitol III	105	5.6	106	6.4	14	-
Capitol IV	58	4.4	83	6.4	46	-
Capitol V	91	5.8	123	9.1	57	-
Northeast	189	13.7	152	12.8	-7	+
Southeast	227	12.8	155	10.0	-22	+
Southeast Shore	337	18.1	220	13.9	-23	+
CONNECTICUT	5,547	12.6	4,342	10.9	-14	+

Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health

= Worse than state-wide rate.

Solutions

Strategies should include increasing access to health insurance, culturally-sensitive public education about the importance of early and regular medical care during pregnancy, and decreasing barriers such as transportation.

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Physical Fitness Tests

REGION NAME	Boys #	Boys %	Girls #	Girls %	Total #	Total %
Northwest	1,237	31.1	889	23.7	2,126	27.5
Housatonic Valley	862	29.0	632	23.3	1,494	26.3
Stamford	381	23.0	225	15.1	606	19.3
Southwest I	586	27.4	457	24.0	1,043	25.8
Southwest II	776	34.2	672	33.2	1,448	33.7
Bridgeport	1,270	48.2	873	35.2	2,143	41.9
Southwest III	851	35.4	729	31.9	1,580	33.7
Southwest IV	754	30.1	683	27.5	1,437	28.8
Waterbury	467	28.1	210	13.5	677	21.1
Naugatuck Valley	1,012	34.3	751	27.4	1,763	30.9
South Central I	865	31.5	531	20.4	1,396	26.1
New Haven	309	16.9	196	10.8	505	13.9
South Central II	635	29.1	369	18.8	1,004	24.2
South Central III	556	29.5	433	24.9	989	27.3
South Central IV	697	32.4	627	30.1	1,324	31.3
South Central V	997	33.8	772	26.9	1,769	30.4
Central I	763	34.6	502	24.2	1,265	29.6
Central II	505	24.2	329	15.9	834	20.1
Hartford	522	24.8	247	11.2	769	17.9
Capitol I	586	32.4	363	22.0	949	27.4
Capitol II	1,035	37.7	915	36.7	1,950	37.2
Capitol III	1,123	34.5	825	27.3	1,948	31.0
Capitol IV	1,011	35.1	820	30.6	1,831	32.9
Capitol V	963	33.5	667	24.9	1,630	29.4
Northeast	907	33.3	600	25.2	1,507	29.5
Southeast	1,043	32.9	732	23.7	1,775	28.3
Southeast Shore	588	27.0	409	19.5	997	23.3
Charter/Magnet Schools	38	33.9	34	26.8	72	30.1
CONNECTICUT	21,339	31.8	15,492	24.6	36,831	28.3

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education = Worse than state-wide rate

Definition

The number shown here is that of students in grades 4, 6, 8 and 10 who met national age and sex standards on all four components of the national physical fitness test during school year 1997-98: sit-and-reach, sit-up, pull-up, and mile run tests. The rate is calculated as a percentage of all students in those grades who took the tests.

Size of the problem

Twenty-eight percent (28.3%) of the students in grades 4, 6, 8 and 10 met the national physical fitness standards on all four subtests in 1997. This is up slightly from 25% in 1993. In all four grades, boys scored higher than girls, with the largest difference in scores occurring among tenth grade students, where one in five girls passed the tests (20.4%) compared to one in three boys (36.2%).

Impact

Surveys suggest that 15 to 25 percent of children in the U.S. are obese. Sedentary habits are in part to blame. Poor physical health can affect a person's ability to function throughout his or her lifetime. Although many health problems associated with inactivity and obesity, such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, do not usually develop until adulthood, the process of atherosclerosis begins early in life. Obese children tend to have higher blood pressure and higher blood cholesterol levels which can develop into health problems down the road.

Solutions

The development of a healthy lifestyle should start at a young age and be reinforced in school by health and physical education programs. Yet some Connecticut schools do not have adequate physical education facilities or adequate funding for health and athletic programs to help promote physical well-being. Increased access to after-school recreation programs would also improve students' overall physical fitness.

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Education

Our Vision:

All children deserve an education that prepares them for the future and inspires them to achieve their potential.

Preschool Experience

Definition

Many Connecticut children start kindergarten not ready to learn. The "school readiness" measure used by the state Department of Education is the number of students enrolled in kindergarten who regularly attended a Head Start program, licensed family day-care home, nursery school, licensed day-care center or public preschool program the previous year. It is expressed as a percentage of all students enrolled in kindergarten that school year. This is an approximate measure, however, because children who do not attend these programs can have the types of experiences at home that prepare them for school.

Size of the problem

Twenty-eight percent of all kindergarteners in 1998-99 had not participated in some form of preschool on a regular basis. However, this measure has consistently shown improvement over the past five years. Poorer regions in Connecticut show the lowest levels of participation in preschool programs.

Impact

The way children function, from the preschool years through adolescence and into adulthood, hinges in large part on their experiences before they start school. In high-quality care, kids can become emotionally secure, intellectually curious and capable, and socially competent, all qualities necessary for school readiness. High quality child care is one way to ensure that young children have the types of experiences they need to build a sound foundation for success later in life.

Regular attendance at full-day child care is a necessity for many families where both parents work. Most quality child care programs include an educational component and prepare children to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

REGION NAME	1997-98 #	1997-98 %	1998-99 #	1998-99 %	% Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	1,526	71.5	1,617	73.9	3	+
Housatonic Valley	1,344	75.0	1,299	73.4	-2	-
Stamford	967	78.4	936	71.5	-9	-
Southwest I	1,453	94.6	1,466	95.2	1	+
Southwest II	1,525	89.7	1,556	87.6	-2	-
Bridgeport	1,038	50.9	1,102	56.5	11	+
Southwest III	1,059	75.9	1,008	76.9	1	+
Southwest IV	1,336	90.8	1,422	91.7	1	+
Waterbury	618	42.6	619	41.2	-3	-
Naugatuck Valley	1,280	77.9	1,285	80.5	3	+
South Central I	1,004	70.2	945	66.7	-5	-
New Haven	956	54.9	1,000	64.2	17	+
South Central II	958	73.9	956	76.0	3	+
South Central III	1,007	77.6	903	70.2	-10	-
South Central IV	1,088	84.1	1,125	83.8	-1	-
South Central V	1,396	78.1	1,494	77.7	-1	-
Central I	921	73.4	941	77.1	5	+
Central II	635	50.5	663	51.2	1	+
Hartford	1,114	50.5	1,144	54.9	9	+
Capitol I	610	55.4	649	55.0	-1	-
Capitol II	1,231	81.1	1,221	81.1	0	=
Capitol III	1,203	68.6	1,318	73.9	8	+
Capitol IV	1,260	83.3	1,302	84.2	1	+
Capitol V	1,114	70.2	1,190	77.0	10	+
Northeast	852	65.9	941	71.5	8	+
Southeast	1,297	67.1	1,269	67.3	1	+
Southeast Shore	866	60.7	881	62.3	3	+
Charter/Magnet Schools	158	58.5	295	78.0	33	+
CONNECTICUT	29,816	70.4	30,547	72.0	2	+

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education

= Worse than state-wide rate

Solutions

Making preschool affordable for any family who wants it will help to ensure that children get the types of experience they need to succeed. Additional attention to increasing the quality of care provided in all types of child care settings will improve the experiences of children cared for outside the home.

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Meeting Connecticut Mastery Test Goal

REGION NAME	Above on all three tests 1994-95 #	1994-95 %	1998-99 #	1998-99 %	% Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	523	25.0	852	37.6	50	+
Housatonic Valley	460	29.1	582	36.5	25	+
Stamford	129	15.1	148	16.5	9	+
Southwest I	409	42.2	624	50.4	19	+
Southwest II	326	29.1	449	35.1	21	+
Bridgeport	48	3.6	126	8.2	128	+
Southwest III	327	26.2	668	46.9	79	+
Southwest IV	453	36.5	687	45.0	23	+
Waterbury	43	5.0	70	6.5	30	+
Naugatuck Valley	432	29.7	635	38.9	31	+
South Central I	369	26.1	588	38.4	47	+
New Haven	36	3.1	77	6.7	116	+
South Central II	264	22.6	527	38.9	72	+
South Central III	152	15.4	324	28.0	82	+
South Central IV	393	32.1	512	38.8	21	+
South Central V	467	28.6	722	43.6	52	+
Central I	349	28.8	456	33.6	17	+
Central II	118	13.0	174	16.2	25	+
Hartford	36	2.2	94	6.6	200	+
Capitol I	174	18.9	328	30.9	63	+
Capitol II	611	43.6	813	55.6	28	+
Capitol III	452	25.0	763	40.3	61	+
Capitol IV	468	34.6	733	46.5	34	+
Capitol V	402	27.1	688	41.3	52	+
Northeast	246	18.4	333	24.5	33	+
Southeast	431	24.9	657	37.3	50	+
Southeast Shore	276	22.8	419	31.5	38	+
CONNECTICUT	8,394	23.8	13,049	33.8	42	+

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education

+ = Worse than state-wide rate

Definition

The Connecticut Mastery Test consists of reading, writing and mathematical subtests. Ideally, every student would achieve the high-level academic performance goal established by the state. This table shows the number of sixth grade students who achieved the goal on all three subtests.

Size of the problem

During the 1998-99 school year, 33.8% of Connecticut 6th graders were able to meet or exceed this goal, up significantly from 23.8% five years earlier. The improvements in Connecticut cities were even more pronounced than the state average, yet in the four poorest cities fewer than one in twelve students (8.2% or lower) met the state goal on all three subtests.

Impact

In poll after poll, Americans cite education as one of their top concerns for the nation. Certainly the nation's economic and social progress depends on having well-educated citizens. For individuals, academic achievement is the foundation for success later in life.

While Connecticut has much to be proud of, many students are not achieving at the levels we want. An achievement gap exists between urban and suburban schools and even within each school. The gap between those students who are succeeding and those who need more support tells us that there is still much more to be done to make our educational system work for everyone.

Solutions

There are many ways in which Connecticut could decrease the inequalities in student achievement. One of the most promising solutions is to decrease class size thus providing more personal attention and individualized instruction for every student. At a very basic level, we must ensure that school facilities are adequate for teaching and learning, and we must operate under the assumption that all children can perform at high levels. By involving broad community resources we can strengthen home/school connections.

Below Connecticut Mastery Test Basic Level

Definition

The Connecticut Mastery Test consists of reading, writing and mathematical subtests. The state has established basic performance levels below which students are considered in need of remedial help. This table shows the number of sixth grade students who scored below the remedial standard on one or more subtests.

Size of the problem

During the 1998-99 school year, 22.9% of Connecticut sixth graders scored below this remedial level on one or more of the subtests. This measure shows a significant improvement over five years earlier, down from 34.1% of all students, yet in Connecticut's four poorest cities more than half of all sixth graders scored below the remedial level on one or more of the three subtests.

Impact

In poll after poll, Americans cite education as one of their top concerns for the nation. Certainly the nation's economic and social progress depends on having well-educated citizens. For individuals, academic achievement is the foundation for success later in life.

While Connecticut has much to be proud of, many students are not achieving at the levels we want. An achievement gap exists between urban and suburban schools and even within each school. The gap between those students who are succeeding and those who need more support tells us that there is still much more to be done to make our educational system work for everyone.

Solutions

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REGION NAME	Below on any one test 1994-95 #	1994-95 %	1998-99 #	1998-99 %	% Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	564	26.9	351	15.5	-42	+
Housatonic Valley	477	30.2	277	17.4	-42	+
Stamford	430	50.5	352	39.2	-22	+
Southwest I	183	18.9	115	9.3	-51	+
Southwest II	352	31.5	268	21.0	-33	+
Bridgeport	891	66.5	803	52.2	-22	+
Southwest III	285	22.8	136	9.5	-58	+
Southwest IV	198	16.0	146	9.6	-40	+
Waterbury	540	62.7	640	59.1	-6	+
Naugatuck Valley	347	23.9	235	14.4	-40	+
South Central I	391	27.6	259	16.9	-39	+
New Haven	873	74.7	655	57.2	-23	+
South Central II	342	29.3	262	19.4	-34	+
South Central III	432	43.9	275	23.7	-46	+
South Central IV	241	19.7	167	12.7	-36	+
South Central V	404	24.7	249	15.0	-39	+
Central I	326	26.9	280	20.6	-23	+
Central II	434	47.9	402	37.5	-22	+
Hartford	1,274	79.4	903	63.1	-21	+
Capitol I	329	35.7	214	20.2	-43	+
Capitol II	252	18.0	174	11.9	-34	+
Capitol III	474	26.2	286	15.1	-42	+
Capitol IV	249	18.4	141	8.9	-52	+
Capitol V	334	22.5	211	12.7	-44	+
Northeast	471	35.3	440	32.4	-8	+
Southeast	497	28.7	290	16.5	-43	+
Southeast Shore	456	37.7	309	23.2	-38	+
CONNECTICUT	12,046	34.1	8,840	22.9	-33	+

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education

= Worse than state-wide rate

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Meeting Connecticut Academic Performance Test Goal

REGION NAME	Above on all four tests 1996-97 #	%	1998-99 #	%	% Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	263	14.7	307	15.9	8	+
Housatonic Valley	267	19.1	286	18.5	-3	-
Stamford	49	7.0	68	8.2	17	+
Southwest I	244	25.4	318	32.7	29	+
Southwest II	156	15.3	211	21.2	39	+
Bridgeport	15	1.4	24	2.1	50	+
Southwest III	140	12.0	180	15.0	25	+
Southwest IV	190	18.3	270	23.6	29	+
Waterbury	10	1.5	8	1.1	-27	-
Naugatuck Valley	138	11.3	232	17.6	56	+
South Central I	104	9.5	184	14.1	48	+
New Haven	13	1.6	16	1.7	6	+
South Central II	89	9.3	109	10.5	13	+
South Central III	54	6.4	104	10.5	64	+
South Central IV	147	13.8	192	16.7	21	+
South Central V	172	14.5	263	19.1	32	+
Central I	124	11.9	174	14.7	24	+
Central II	69	8.3	126	14.8	78	+
Hartford	7	0.7	9	0.9	29	+
Capitol I	86	11.1	69	8.0	-28	-
Capitol II	331	27.0	406	31.6	17	+
Capitol III	198	13.6	285	16.0	18	+
Capitol IV	212	17.3	315	23.7	37	+
Capitol V	224	16.2	266	18.3	13	+
Northeast	103	7.8	128	10.1	29	+
Southeast	136	9.3	233	14.0	51	+
Southeast Shore	124	11.8	147	13.8	17	+
CONNECTICUT	3,665	12.3	4,930	15.3	24	+

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education

= Worse than state-wide rate.

Definition

The Connecticut Academic Performance Test consists of four major subtests: language arts, mathematics, science and an interdisciplinary task that involves writing an explanation in addition to multiple choice questions. Ideally, every student would achieve the high-level academic performance goal established by the state. This table shows the number of tenth grade students who achieved the goal on all four subtests.

Size of the problem

In the 1998-99 school year, only one in seven Connecticut tenth graders (15.3%) was above the mastery level on all four subtests. Fewer than 2% of the students in Connecticut's four poorest cities were above mastery in all four areas.

Impact

In poll after poll, Americans cite education as one of their top concerns for the nation. Certainly the nation's economic and social progress depends on having well-educated citizens. For individuals, academic achievement is the foundation for success later in life.

While Connecticut has much to be proud of, many students are not achieving at the levels we want. An achievement gap exists between urban and suburban schools and even within each school. The gap between those students who are succeeding and those who need more support tells us that there is still much more to be done to make our educational system work for everyone.

Solutions

There are many ways in which Connecticut could decrease the inequalities in student achievement. One of the most promising solutions is to decrease class size thus providing more personal attention and individualized instruction for every student. At a very basic level, we must ensure that school facilities are adequate for teaching and learning, and we must operate under the assumption that all children can perform at high levels. By involving broad community resources we can strengthen home/school connections.

Below Connecticut Academic Performance Test Basic Level

Definition

The Connecticut Academic Performance Test consists of four major subtests: language arts, mathematics, science and interdisciplinary task, and involves writing an explanation in addition to multiple choice questions. The state has established basic performance levels below which students are considered in need of remedial help. This table shows the number of tenth grade students who scored below the remedial standard on one or more subtests.

Size of the problem

In the 1998-99 school year, one in four (26.8%) Connecticut tenth graders scored below the basic level on one or more of the four subtests. This shows a large improvement from the previous year, when this was true for more than one in three students (37.9%). More than half of the students in Connecticut's five largest cities scored below remedial on at least one subtest.

Impact

In poll after poll, Americans cite education as one of their top concerns for the nation. Certainly the nation's economic and social progress depends on having well-educated citizens. For individuals, academic achievement is the foundation for success later in life.

While Connecticut has much to be proud of, many students are not achieving at the levels we want. An achievement gap exists between urban and suburban schools and even within each school. The gap between those students who are succeeding and those who need more support tells us that there is still much more to be done to make our educational system work for everyone.

Solutions

There are many ways in which Connecticut could decrease the inequalities in student achievement. One of the most promising solutions is to decrease class size thus providing more personal attention and individualized instruction for every student. At a very basic level, we must ensure that school facilities are adequate for teaching and learning, and we must operate under the assumption that all children can perform at high levels. By involving broad community resources we can strengthen home/school connections.

REGION NAME	Below on any one test 1996-97 #	1996-97 %	1998-99 #	1998-99 %	% Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	560	31.3	390	20.2	-35	+
Housatonic Valley	396	28.3	288	18.7	-34	+
Stamford	**376**	**53.8**	**349**	**42.2**	**-22**	+
Southwest I	180	18.8	103	10.6	-44	+
Southwest II	363	35.6	228	22.9	-36	+
Bridgeport	**803**	**75.8**	**692**	**59.9**	**-21**	+
Southwest III	407	34.9	248	20.6	-41	+
Southwest IV	211	20.3	156	13.6	-33	+
Waterbury	**459**	**70.5**	**378**	**53.8**	**-24**	+
Naugatuck Valley	371	30.4	264	20.0	-34	+
South Central I	436	39.7	335	25.7	-35	+
New Haven	**663**	**79.1**	**591**	**64.1**	**-19**	+
South Central II	**397**	**41.5**	**289**	**27.9**	**-33**	+
South Central III	**351**	**41.3**	**314**	**31.8**	**-23**	+
South Central IV	317	29.7	253	21.9	-26	+
South Central V	361	30.3	249	18.1	-40	+
Central I	336	32.2	281	23.8	-26	+
Central II	**389**	**46.6**	**265**	**31.1**	**-33**	+
Hartford	**830**	**82.6**	**652**	**65.8**	**-20**	+
Capitol I	**300**	**38.9**	**251**	**29.1**	**-25**	+
Capitol II	289	23.6	224	17.4	-26	+
Capitol III	428	29.4	366	20.6	-30	+
Capitol IV	263	21.4	183	13.8	-36	+
Capitol V	366	26.5	281	19.4	-27	+
Northeast	**546**	**41.4**	**340**	**26.9**	**-35**	+
Southeast	484	33.0	394	23.7	-28	+
Southeast Shore	395	37.7	275	25.8	-32	+
CONNECTICUT	11,277	37.9	8,639	26.8	-29	+

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education

= Worse than state-wide rate.

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High School Dropouts

REGION NAME	1992-93 #	1992-93 %	1997-98 #	1997-98 %	% Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	243	3.5	218	2.7	-23	+
Housatonic Valley	206	3.4	175	2.7	-21	+
Stamford	31	0.8	103	2.3	188	-
Southwest I	46	1.1	37	0.9	-18	+
Southwest II	164	3.9	62	1.3	-67	+
Bridgeport	447	9.4	398	7.6	-19	+
Southwest III	80	1.9	107	2.2	16	-
Southwest IV	64	1.5	58	1.2	-20	+
Waterbury	444	11.7	334	8.6	-26	+
Naugatuck Valley	80	2.0	160	3.4	70	-
South Central I	203	3.3	173	2.6	-21	+
New Haven	325	8.8	315	6.8	-23	+
South Central II	232	6.1	127	2.9	-52	+
South Central III	201	4.7	145	3.3	-30	+
South Central IV	72	1.8	99	2.1	17	-
South Central V	154	3.2	132	2.4	-25	+
Central I	209	4.7	164	3.3	-30	+
Central II	263	7.2	225	5.0	-31	+
Hartford	1,012	16.9	514	9.6	-43	+
Capitol I	189	4.7	253	5.7	21	-
Capitol II	73	1.5	93	1.7	13	-
Capitol III	166	2.9	199	3.0	3	-
Capitol IV	84	1.8	74	1.4	-22	+
Capitol V	147	2.9	168	3.0	0	-
Northeast	232	4.6	278	5.0	9	-
Southeast	292	5.0	173	2.6	-48	+
Southeast Shore	154	3.5	179	3.7	6	-
CONNECTICUT	5,813	4.6	4,963	3.5	-24	+

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education

+ = Worse than state-wide rate

Definition

This measure shows the number of high school students who leave school prior to graduation *in any one school year*, and is expressed as a percentage of the total high school enrollment. Those students who leave school before the ninth grade are not counted in this measure.

Size of the problem

Every year almost five thousand students (3.5%) drop out of high school. Three cities have dropout rates that are more than double the state average. Waterbury's dropout rate is 8.6%, Bridgeport's is 7.6%, and Hartford's is 9.6%, yet these cities show dramatic improvement over the past five years.

Impact

High school dropouts are three times as likely to slip into poverty than those who finish high school. During their adult lives, dropouts will earn half the income of high school graduates and less than a third of college graduates. Real wages for high school dropouts have declined by 23 percent since 1973. About one-half of the U.S. prison population consists of high school dropouts.

Declining grades, teenage pregnancy, lack of school success and a dislike for school are the most often cited reasons for dropping out. Characteristics common to dropouts include making poor grades, repeating a grade, being overage for their grade, or being absent frequently.

Solutions

Promising practices that help students stay in school include incentives for improved performance, tutoring or mentoring, transfer to different schools, and links with appropriate community agencies to address personal or family difficulties.

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Safety

Our Vision:

All children deserve to grow up in nurturing families free from abuse, violence and the devastation of alcohol and other drugs.

Child Abuse/Neglect

Definition

Many Connecticut children are threatened by physical injury, sexual abuse, psychological or emotional harm, and neglect. The data presented here include the number of children whose cases have been substantiated as child abuse or neglect shown as a rate per 1,000 children under age 18 during the state fiscal year, from July 1 through June 30.

Size of the problem

More than 16,705 children were confirmed as abused or neglected in Connecticut between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 1999 by the Department of Children and Families. That translates to 22 out of every 1,000 children.

Impact

Child abuse or neglect usually results from a combination of factors related to the parents' background and behavior, external crises and stresses, and the child's background and behavior. Parents who were abused, have a history of criminal activity, mental illness or substance abuse, suffer from low self-esteem, social isolation or depression, or have poor coping or problem-solving skills, are more likely to abuse or neglect their children. A parent's reaction to external stresses often increases the risk that a parent will abuse.

In addition to the consequences suffered by child victims of abuse or neglect, direct costs related to child maltreatment include child welfare services for investigations, in-home services, and placement. Indirect long-term costs of failing to prevent abuse or neglect include teen pregnancy, substance abuse treatment, income maintenance programs, medical assistance, job training, and police and prison expenses.

REGION NAME	SFY 1996-97 #	SFY 1996-97 %	SFY 1998-99 #	SFY 1998-99 %	% Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	755	1.8	602	1.4	-21	+
Housatonic Valley	928	2.8	784	2.4	-15	+
Stamford	441	2.0	392	1.8	-10	+
Southwest I	77	0.3	115	0.5	49	-
Southwest II	437	1.7	312	1.2	-27	+
Bridgeport	1,624	4.5	1,344	3.7	-18	+
Southwest III	330	1.3	243	0.9	-30	+
Southwest IV	208	0.9	168	0.7	-22	+
Waterbury	1,044	4.2	988	4.0	-4	+
Naugatuck Valley	370	1.4	301	1.1	-19	+
South Central I	714	2.5	569	2.0	-22	+
New Haven	2,226	7.6	1,801	6.2	-19	+
South Central II	717	2.9	620	2.5	-14	+
South Central III	847	3.6	723	3.2	-12	+
South Central IV	402	1.7	297	1.3	-26	+
South Central V	786	2.4	564	1.7	-29	+
Central I	564	2.3	351	1.4	-38	+
Central II	980	4.3	805	3.6	-17	+
Hartford	2,199	5.9	1,603	4.4	-25	+
Capitol I	881	4.4	567	2.8	-37	+
Capitol II	321	1.3	225	0.9	-30	+
Capitol III	521	1.6	273	0.8	-47	+
Capitol IV	202	0.8	170	0.7	-17	+
Capitol V	639	2.2	386	1.3	-40	+
Northeast	1,395	5.2	1,060	3.9	-24	+
Southeast	957	2.9	693	2.1	-28	+
Southeast Shore	1,141	4.3	749	3.0	-32	+
Connecticut	21,706	2.9	16,705	2.2	-23	+

Source: Connecticut Department of Children and Families + = Worse than state-wide rate

Solutions

In addition to improving the general welfare of children, Connecticut must commit to providing sufficient resources for two types of programs: those that identify children and families at risk, and those that assist families in crisis.

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Child Deaths

REGION NAME	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1993-1997 ANNUAL AVERAGE #	1993-1997 ANNUAL AVERAGE %
Northwest	6	13	6	3	5	7	19.6
Housatonic Valley	5	5	5	8	4	5	21.5
Stamford	5	5	1	3	4	4	20.7
Southwest I	4	5	3	5	6	5	26.7
Southwest II	4	1	4	5	5	4	19.6
Bridgeport	21	10	6	14	10	12	42.4
Southwest III	4	4	1	2	0	2	*
Southwest IV	3	3	3	5	2	3	*
Waterbury	11	10	6	5	6	8	38.5
Naugatuck Valley	4	5	3	3	3	4	17.3
South Central I	7	4	4	2	3	4	17.6
New Haven	12	13	6	16	4	10	43.0
South Central II	3	3	5	5	2	4	18.6
South Central III	6	5	6	5	1	5	25.2
South Central IV	1	4	5	3	2	3	16.6
South Central V	4	7	3	4	7	5	19.6
Central I	4	7	1	3	2	3	17.8
Central II	6	5	6	7	2	5	29.3
Hartford	16	16	15	11	10	14	46.9
Capitol I	2	1	5	5	5	4	22.6
Capitol II	3	2	3	5	5	4	18.6
Capitol III	11	0	4	4	7	5	20.1
Capitol IV	6	2	1	5	4	4	18.3
Capitol V	2	6	3	3	4	4	15.4
Northeast	5	5	6	5	5	6	25.9
Southeast	6	2	7	8	11	7	25.5
Southeast Shore	4	5	5	4	3	4	20.1
CONNECTICUT	165	148	125	148	122	142	24.1

Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health

= Worse than state-wide rate

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate

Definition

The child death rate is the number of deaths from all causes — including both illness and injury — per 100,000 children ages 1 - 14.

Size of the problem

More than 120 children died in Connecticut each year since 1993, resulting in a rate of 24.1 deaths per 100,000 children. Connecticut's child death rate ranks 16th nationally.

Impact

More children die from accidents than all contagious diseases added together. Motor vehicle crashes account for more of the deaths than other types of accidents. Other major causes of fatal accidents include falls, poisoning, and drowning. Abuse and neglect also play a role in the child death rate.

Injury rates are greatest among poor children and higher for boys than girls. The risk of childhood injury depends on the developmental level of the child, his or her exposure to dangers, protective measures taken and the level of adult supervision.

Child deaths represent lost potential. Non-fatal injuries leave children temporarily or permanently disabled, result in time lost from school, decrease children's ability to participate in activities and increase burdens on the health care system.

Solutions

The child death rate could be improved through increased prevention efforts such as those promoting wider use of bicycle helmets, car seats, and similar safety devices. Reducing the number of motor vehicle crashes would address the number one cause of child deaths in Connecticut.

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Preventable Teen Deaths

Definition

This indicator shows the number of deaths to teens ages 15-19 years old that result from accidents, suicides, or homicides (which includes police intervention). No rate is calculated due to the low numbers recorded at the regional level.

Size of the problem

During 1997, 55 youths died from accidents, 9 died from suicide, and 18 died from homicide. Preventable teen deaths make up 60% of all deaths to Connecticut teens.

Impact

Motor vehicle crashes are the primary cause of preventable teen deaths. Causes of teen violence include easy access to handguns, alcohol and drugs, poverty and unemployment, negative peer and family influences, the lack of positive role models and the media's glamorization of violence.

Teenagers as a group are more likely to take risks, less likely to use safety belts, and more susceptible to the effects of alcohol. Teens who have a history of substance abuse, psychiatric disorders, exposure to violence (including other teen suicides), or who feel isolated are at greatest risk for suicide.

Solutions

Policies that increase seat belt usage and limit teens' access to alcohol will decrease the number of teen deaths from accidents. Successful teen violence prevention efforts include teaching alternatives to aggression, mentoring programs, targeted media messages, and individual and group counseling. Suicide prevention begins with closer parent-child relationships and alertness to changes in behavior. Stricter gun control laws would make teen violence less lethal, as well as reduce the number of suicides.

REGION NAME	1993-97 Five Year Total			
	Unintentional Injury	Suicide	Homicide	Total
Northwest	**14**	**4**	**0**	**18**
Housatonic Valley	13	4	1	18
Stamford	**4**	**3**	**5**	**12**
Southwest I	6	1	1	8
Southwest II	10	1	1	12
Bridgeport	**11**	**4**	**37**	**52**
Southwest III	10	4	1	15
Southwest IV	9	5	1	15
Waterbury	**7**	**0**	**11**	**18**
Naugatuck Valley	7	3	0	10
South Central I	11	5	5	21
New Haven	**11**	**5**	**29**	**45**
South Central II	8	1	1	10
South Central III	5	1	3	9
South Central IV	8	0	0	8
South Central V	13	1	2	16
Central I	14	0	2	16
Central II	6	1	8	15
Hartford	**12**	**2**	**25**	**39**
Capitol I	6	3	0	9
Capitol II	7	3	0	10
Capitol III	6	1	2	9
Capitol IV	5	0	1	6
Capitol V	13	2	2	17
Northeast	16	1	0	17
Southeast	17	5	1	23
Southeast Shore	10	5	5	20
CONNECTICUT	259	65	144	468

Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health

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Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests

REGION NAME	1991-93 ANNUAL AVERAGE #	1991-93 ANNUAL AVERAGE %	1996-98 ANNUAL AVERAGE #	1996-98 ANNUAL AVERAGE %	% Change in Rate	Better or Worse
Northwest	28	163.8	45	254.6	55	-
Housatonic Valley	56	425.4	26	196.3	-54	+
Stamford	65	620.2	71	661.2	7	-
Southwest I	9	91.0	5	*	n/a	
Southwest II	90	754.8	35	298.2	-60	+
Bridgeport	124	912.8	110	817.0	-10	+
Southwest III	27	238.6	42	360.0	51	-
Southwest IV	24	232.9	9	84.9	-64	+
Waterbury	48	459.1	36	347.6	-24	+
Naugatuck Valley	22	205.2	20	186.7	-9	+
South Central I	36	270.0	48	359.0	33	-
New Haven	218	1,744.8	265	2,184.5	25	-
South Central II	20	176.4	54	485.0	175	-
South Central III	10	102.1	33	346.1	239	-
South Central IV	10	99.1	15	148.6	50	-
South Central V	43	306.9	58	398.7	30	-
Central I	19	182.5	53	517.7	184	-
Central II	61	579.0	74	723.4	25	-
Hartford	170	1,243.5	131	1,016.4	-18	+
Capitol I	36	364.9	53	548.7	50	-
Capitol II	40	333.6	36	310.6	-7	+
Capitol III	34	239.0	40	289.4	21	-
Capitol IV	25	204.8	22	181.5	-11	+
Capitol V	32	254.8	41	320.5	26	-
Northeast	46	457.5	80	779.5	70	-
Southeast	66	515.2	69	529.3	3	-
Southeast Shore	50	417.6	45	386.0	-8	+
CONNECTICUT	1,407	439.3	1,440	451.1	3	-

Source: Connecticut Department of Public Safety

= Worse than state-wide rate.

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate.

Definition

The juvenile violent crime arrest rate tracks arrests of juveniles for the crimes of murder, rape, robbery or aggravated assault. It is reported as arrests per 100,000 youths aged 10 through 17.

Size of the problem

Juveniles accounted for 1,216 violent crime arrests in 1998, down from a high of 1,609 in 1996, resulting in a three-year rate of 451.1 per 100,000 youths. Almost two-thirds (63%) of the arrests were for aggravated assault, and 29% were for robbery. One-third of the arrests occurred in Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven.

Impact

Drug abuse, the increasing availability of weapons and the growth of gangs have contributed to the increase in juvenile violence. In addition, the number of children at risk for becoming delinquent continues to increase.

Research shows that most juvenile crimes occur in the late afternoon, when teens are often unsupervised. Children are more likely to be delinquent when they have friends who get into trouble, do poorly in school, live in high-crime neighborhoods, have weak family attachments, or are not consistently disciplined or supervised. When a child is physically abused or neglected early in life, he or she is at greater risk to become a violent juvenile offender.

Solutions

Connecticut must commit to a serious prevention effort if it wants to deter juvenile crime. More resources for alternative schools, juvenile probation officers, after-school programs, juvenile justice intervention programs and safe school measures could prevent much of the tragedy that results from juvenile crime.

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Regional Profiles

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Northwest

Barkhamstead
Bethlehem
Bridgewater
Canaan
Colebrook
Cornwall
Goshen
Harwinton
Kent
Litchfield
Morris
New Hartford
New Milford
Norfolk
North Canaan
Plymouth
Roxbury
Salisbury
Sharon
Thomaston
Torrington
Warren
Washington
Watertown
Winchester
Woodbury

Living With Two Parents	80.9%
Estimated Number of Children	42,400
Percent of Total Population	23.4%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	97.0%
Black	1.2%
Other Races	1.9%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	1.5%

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate / Better Than State Rate
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	771	1.8	7.0	74%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	3,178	10.9	25.3	57%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	1,248	34.1	31.3	9%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	119	6.2	8.3	25%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	101	52.6	73.4	28%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	8	4.0	7.0	43%
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	143	7.8	10.9	28%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	2,126	27.5	28.3	3%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,617	73.9	72.0	3%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	852	37.6	33.8	11%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	351	15.5	22.9	32%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	307	15.9	15.3	4%
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	390	20.2	26.8	25%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	218	2.7	3.5	23%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	602	1.4	2.2	37%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	7	19.6	24.1	19%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	18	*	*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	45	254.6	451.1	44%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Housatonic Valley

Bethel
Brookfield
Danbury
New Fairfield
Ridgefield
Sherman

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	Worse Than State Rate	State Rate	Better Than State Rate
Child Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	693	2.1		7.0	70%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	3,610	15.4		25.3	39%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	998	33.1	6%	31.3	
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	82	4.1		8.3	51%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	132	67.2		73.4	8%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	8	4.1		7.0	41%
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	111	5.7		10.9	48%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,494	26.3	7%	28.3	
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,299	73.4		72.0	2%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	582	36.5		33.8	8%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	277	17.4		22.9	24%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	286	18.5		15.3	21%
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	288	18.7		26.8	30%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	175	2.5		3.5	23%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	784	2.4	7%	2.2	
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	5	21.5		24.1	11%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	18	*		*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	26	196.3		451.1	56%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Living With Two Parents 82.0%
Estimated Number of Children 32,583
Percent of Total Population 23.8%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background
White 90.1%
Black 4.1%
Other Races 5.9%
Hispanic (may be of any race) 5.5%

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Stamford

Stamford

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate ← 100% 75% 50% 25% 0	Better Than State Rate → 0 25% 50% 75% 100%
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	1,022	4.6	7.0		34%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	5,135	34.8	25.3	38%	
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	604	36.0	31.3	15%	
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	110	6.2	8.3		25%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	125	71.6	73.4		2%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	7	4.1	7.0		41%
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	279	16.8	10.9	54%	
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	606	19.3	28.3	32%	
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	936	71.5	72.0	1%	
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	148	16.5	33.8	51%	
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	352	39.2	22.9	71%	
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	68	8.2	15.3	46%	
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	349	42.2	26.8	57%	
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	103	2.3	3.5		34%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	392	1.8	2.2		21%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	4	20.7	24.1		14%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	12	*	*		
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	71	661.2	451.1	47%	

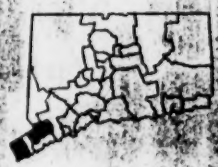
Living With Two Parents 67.9%
Estimated Number of Children 22,304
Percent of Total Population 20.1%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background
White 64.9%
Black 27.1%
Other Races 7.9%
Hispanic (may be of any race) 12.8%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate (100% 75% 50% 25% 0) / Better Than State Rate (0 25% 50% 75% 100%)
Child Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	102	0.5	7.0	93%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	581	3.4	25.3	87%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	301	16.3	31.3	48%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	16	1.2	8.3	86%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	91	73.3	73.4	1%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	8	5.6	7.0	20%
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	58	5.0	10.9	54%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,043	25.8	28.3	9%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,466	95.2	72.0	32%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	624	50.4	33.8	49%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	115	9.3	22.9	59%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	318	32.7	15.3	114%
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	103	10.6	26.8	60%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	37	0.9	3.5	74%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	115	0.5	2.2	77%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	5	26.7	24.1	11%
Preventable Teen Deaths five-year total, 1993-97	8	*	*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	5	*	451.1	

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.



Southwest I

Greenwich
New Canaan
Weston
Wilton

Living With Two Parents	86.6%
Estimated Number of Children	22,424
Percent of Total Population	22.0%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	93.1%
Black	1.9%
Other Races	5.0%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	3.6%

Southwest II

Darien
Norwalk
Westport

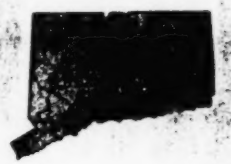
Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate / Better Than State Rate (100% 75% 50% 25% 0 0 25% 50% 75% 100%)
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	1,029	4.1	7.0	41%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	2,769	14.9	25.3	41%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	447	24.4	31.3	22%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	85	4.3	8.3	48%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	138	72.3	73.4	1%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	8	4.1	7.0	41%
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	152	8.4	10.9	23%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4-6-8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,448	33.7	28.3	19%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,556	87.6	72.0	22%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	449	35.1	33.8	4%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	268	21.0	22.9	8%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	211	21.2	15.3	39%
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	228	22.9	26.8	15%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	62	1.3	3.5	63%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	312	1.2	2.2	44%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	4	19.6	24.1	19%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	12	*	*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	35	298.2	451.1	34%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Living With Two Parents	76%
Estimated Number of Children	25,010
Percent of Total Population	20.8%
Children's Racial/Ethnic Background	
White	80.2%
Black	13.9%
Other Races	6.0%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	9.8%

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	Worse Than State Rate	State Rate	Better Than State Rate
Child Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	6,490	18.1	159%	7.0	
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	21,706	94.1	272%	25.3	
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	632	36.7	17%	31.3	
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	423	18.4	122%	8.3	
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	223	97.1	32%	73.4	
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	24	10.6	51%	7.0	
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	406	20.8	91%	10.9	
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4 6 8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	2,143	41.9		28.3	48%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,102	56.5	22%	72.0	
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	126	8.2	76%	33.8	
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	803	52.2	128%	22.9	
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	24	2.1	86%	15.3	
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	692	59.9	124%	26.8	
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	398	7.6	117%	3.5	
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	1,344	3.7	67%	2.2	
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	12	42.4	76%	24.1	
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	52	*		*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	110	817.0	81%	451.1	

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.



Bridgeport

Bridgeport

Living With Two Parents 47.0%
Estimated Number of Children 35,880
Percent of Total Population 26.1%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background
White 45.0%
Black 34.1%
Other Races 20.9%
Hispanic (may be of any race) 38.2%

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Southwest III

Shelton
Stratford
Trumbull

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate (100% 75% 50% 25% 0)	Better Than State Rate (0 25% 50% 75% 100%)
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	567	2.2	7.0		69%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	2,364	13.1	25.3		48%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	711	33.8	31.3	8%	
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	69	4.8	8.3		42%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	79	55.4	73.4		25%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	7	4.8	7.0		31%
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	76	5.9	10.9		46%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,580	33.7	28.3		19%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,008	76.9	72.0		7%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	668	46.9	33.8		39%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	136	9.5	22.9		59%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	180	15.0	15.3	2%	
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	248	20.6	26.8		23%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	107	2.2	3.5		37%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	243	0.9	2.2		58%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	2	*	24.1		
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	15	*	*		
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	42	360.0	451.1		20%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

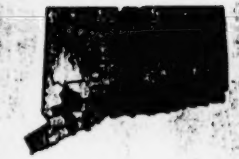
Living With Two Parents	81.8%
Estimated Number of Children	26,067
Percent of Total Population	21.7%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	91.0%
Black	5.8%
Other Races	3.2%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	4.0%

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate (100% 75% 50% 25% 0) / Better Than State Rate (0 25% 50% 75% 100%)
Child Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	140	0.6	7.0	91%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	590	3.1	25.3	88%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	554	26.3	31.3	16%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	16	1.1	8.3	87%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	83	55.4	73.4	24%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	7	4.7	7.0	33%
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	43	3.1	10.9	72%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,437	28.8	28.3	2%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,422	91.7	72.0	27%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	687	45.0	33.8	33%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	146	9.6	22.9	58%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	270	23.6	15.3	54%
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	156	13.6	26.8	49%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	58	1.2	3.5	66%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	168	0.7	2.2	70%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	3	*	24.1	
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	15	*	*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	9	84.9	451.1	81%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.



Southwest IV

Easton
Fairfield
Monroe
Newtown
Redding

Living With Two Parents	86.9%
Estimated Number of Children	25,079
Percent of Total Population	22.7%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	96.6%
Black	1.0%
Other Races	2.4%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	2.4%

Waterbury

Waterbury

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	Worse Than State Rate	State Rate	Better Than State Rate
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	3,772	15.3	119%	7.0	
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	9,531	59.9	137%	25.3	
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	400	30.9		31.3	1%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	265	16.2	95%	8.3	
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	150	91.6	25%	73.4	
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	15	8.6	23%	7.0	
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	340	23.2	113%	10.9	
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	677	21.1	25%	28.3	
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	619	41.2	43%	72.0	
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	70	6.5	81%	33.8	
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	640	59.1	158%	22.9	
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	8	1.1	93%	15.3	
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	378	53.8	101%	26.8	
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	334	8.6	146%	3.5	
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	988	4.0	79%	2.2	
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	8	38.5	60%	24.1	
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	18	*		*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	36	347.6		451.1	23%

100% 75% 50% 25% 0 | 0 25% 50% 75% 100%

Living With Two Parents	59.5%
Estimated Number of Children	24,713
Percent of Total Population	23.5%

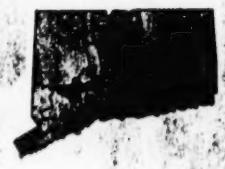
Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	69.3%
Black	18.1%
Other Races	12.6%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	22.6%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate (100% 75% 50% 25% 0)	Better Than State Rate (0 25% 50% 75% 100%)
Child Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	439	1.6	7.0		77%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	2,046	9.8	25.3		61%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	638	27.7	31.3		12%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	45	3.6	8.3		57%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	44	34.9	73.4		52%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	7	5.2	7.0		26%
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	87	7.3	10.9		33%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,763	30.9	28.3		9%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,285	80.5	72.0		12%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	635	38.9	33.8		15%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	235	14.4	22.9		37%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	232	17.6	15.3		15%
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	264	20.0	26.8		25%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	160	3.4	3.5		3%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	301	1.1	2.2		50%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	4	17.3	24.1		28%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	10	*	*		
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	20	186.7	451.1		59%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.



Naugatuck Valley

Cheshire
Middlebury
Naugatuck
Oxford
Prospect
Southbury
Wolcott

Living With Two Parents	84.5%
Estimated Number of Children	26,902
Percent of Total Population	24.1%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	96.0%
Black	1.7%
Other Races	2.3%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	2.4%

South Central I

Ansonia
Beacon Falls
Bethany
Derby
Hamden
North Haven
Seymour
Woodbridge

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	Worse Than State Rate ← 100% 75% 50% 25% 0	State Rate	Better Than State Rate → 0 25% 50% 75% 100%
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	1,416	4.9		7.0	30%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998 99	3,526	15.9		25.3	37%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	904	30.9		31.3	1%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	62	4.0		8.3	52%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	93	59.5		73.4	19%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995 97	10	6.0		7.0	14%
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	123	8.2		10.9	25%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4 6 8 and 10th grade students, 1997 98	1,396	26.1	8%	28.3	
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998 99	945	66.7	7%	72.0	
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998 99	588	38.4		33.8	14%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998 99	259	16.9		22.9	26%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998 99	184	14.1	8%	15.3	
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998 99	335	25.7		26.8	4%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9 12, 1997 98	173	2.6		3.5	26%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998 99	569	2.0		2.2	12%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 14, avg. 1993 97	4	17.6		24.1	27%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993 97	21	*		*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10 17, avg. 1996 98	48	359.0		451.1	20%

Living With Two Parents 79.4%
Estimated Number of Children 28,756
Percent of Total Population 20.9%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background
White 89.7%
Black 7.0%
Other Races 3.2%
Hispanic (may be of any race) 2.9%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71 74 for Data Notes and Sources

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	Worse Than State Rate	State Rate	Better Than State Rate
Child Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	8,455	28.9	313%	7.0	
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	10,773	57.5	127%	25.3	
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	305	15.6		31.3	50%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	335	18.7	125%	8.3	
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	193	107.9	47%	73.4	
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	21	11.4	63%	7.0	
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	338	21.8	100%	10.9	
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4-6-8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	505	13.9	51%	28.3	
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,000	64.2	11%	72.0	
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	77	6.7	80%	33.8	
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	655	57.2	150%	22.9	
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	16	1.7	89%	15.3	
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	591	64.1	139%	26.8	
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	315	6.8	94%	3.5	
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	1,801	6.2	175%	2.2	
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	10	43.0	78%	24.1	
Preventable Teen Deaths five-year total, 1993-97	45	*		*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	265	2,184.5	384%	451.1	

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

New Haven

New Haven

Living With Two Parents 38.6%
Estimated Number of Children 29,209
Percent of Total Population 23.7%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background
White 34%
Black 51.6%
Other Races 14.3%
Hispanic (may be of any race) 21.6%

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South Central II

Milford
Orange
West Haven

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	Worse Than State Rate (100% 75% 50% 25% 0)	State Rate	Better Than State Rate (0 25% 50% 75% 100%)
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	1,533	6.2		7.0	11%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	4,625	27.7	9%	25.3	
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	683	44.0	41%	31.3	
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	81	5.6		8.3	33%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	105	72.9		73.4	1%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	11	7.4	6%	7.0	
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	125	9.3		10.9	15%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4-6-8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,004	24.2	14%	28.3	
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	956	76.0		72.0	6%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	527	38.9		33.8	15%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	262	19.4		22.9	15%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	109	10.5	31%	15.3	
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	289	27.9	4%	26.8	
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	127	2.9		3.5	17%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	620	2.5	13%	2.2	
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	4	18.6		24.1	23%
Preventable Teen Deaths five-year total, 1993-97	10	*		*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	54	485.0	8%	451.1	

Living With Two Parents	75.4%
Estimated Number of Children	24,551
Percent of Total Population	21.5%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	87.7%
Black	8.9%
Other Races	3.4%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	3.9%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

South Central III

Meriden
Wallingford

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	Worse Than State Rate	State Rate	Better Than State Rate
Child Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	1,844	8.1	16%	7.0	
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	4,486	27.3	8%	25.3	
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	678	35.5	13%	31.3	
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	138	9.9	19%	8.3	
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	82	58.7		73.4	20%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	4	*		7.0	
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	240	17.5	61%	10.9	
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4-6-8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	989	27.3	4%	28.3	
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	903	70.2	3%	72.0	
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	324	28.0	17%	33.8	
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	275	23.7		22.9	3%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	104	10.5	31%	15.3	
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	314	31.8		26.8	19%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	145	3.3		3.5	6%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	723	3.2	41%	2.2	
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	5	25.2	5%	24.1	
Preventable Teen Deaths five-year total, 1993-97	9	*		*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	33	346.1		451.1	23%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Living With Two Parents	73.7%
Estimated Number of Children	22,899
Percent of Total Population	23.4%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	88.6%
Black	4.3%
Other Races	7.1%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	14.9%

South Central IV

Branford
East Haven
Guilford
Madison
North Branford

Indicator*	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate / Better Than State Rate
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	543	2.4	7.0	66%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	1,735	10.1	25.3	60%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	732	32.6	31.3	4%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	38	3.0	8.3	64%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	89	71.3	73.4	3%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	4	*	7.0	
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	69	5.8	10.9	47%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,324	31.3	28.3	11%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,125	83.8	72.0	16%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	512	38.8	33.8	15%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	167	12.7	22.9	45%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	192	16.7	15.3	9%
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	253	21.9	26.8	18%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	99	2.1	3.5	40%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	297	1.3	2.2	43%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	3	16.6	24.1	31%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	8	*	*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	15	148.6	451.1	67%

Living With Two Parents 82.2%
Estimated Number of Children 23,096
Percent of Total Population 22.1%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background
White 97.2%
Black 1.0%
Other Races 1.8%
Hispanic (may be of any race) 1.9%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate (100% 75% 50% 25% 0) / Better Than State Rate (0 25% 50% 75% 100%)
Child Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	846	2.6	7.0	63%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998 99	3,012	13.2	25.3	48%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	835	34.0	31.3	9%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	95	4.9	8.3	41%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	140	72.6	73.4	1%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995 97	15	7.7	7.0	10%
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	198	10.7	10.9	2%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4 6 8 and 10th grade students, 1997 98	1,769	30.4	28.3	7%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998 99	1,494	77.7	72.0	8%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998 99	722	43.6	33.8	29%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998 99	249	15.0	22.9	34%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998 99	263	19.1	15.3	25%
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998 99	249	18.1	26.8	32%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9 12, 1997 98	132	2.4	3.5	31%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998 99	564	1.7	2.2	23%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 14, avg. 1993 97	5	19.6	24.1	19%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993 97	16	*	*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10 17, avg. 1996 98	58	398.7	451.1	12%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

South Central V

Chester
Clinton
Cromwell
Deep River
Durham
East Haddam
East Hampton
Essex
Haddam
Killingworth
Middlefield
Middletown
Old Saybrook
Portland
Westbrook

Living With Two Parents 77.2%
Estimated Number of Children 32,900
Percent of Total Population 21.9%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background
White 90.8%
Black 6.4%
Other Races 2.8%
Hispanic (may be of any race) 3.4%

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Central I

Bristol
Burlington
Southington

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	Worse Than State Rate	State Rate	Better Than State Rate
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	840	3.4		7.0	51%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	2,245	12.8		25.3	49%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	675	33.5	7%	31.3	
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	90	6.9		8.3	17%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	81	62.5		73.4	15%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	5	*		7.0	
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	96	9.0		10.9	17%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,265	29.6		28.3	5%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	941	77.1		72.0	7%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	456	33.6	1%	33.8	
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	280	20.6		22.9	10%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	174	14.7	4%	15.3	
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	281	23.8		26.8	11%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	164	3.3		3.5	6%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	351	1.4		2.2	36%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	3	17.8		24.1	26%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	16	*		*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	53	517.7	15%	451.1	

100% 75% 50% 25% 0 0 25% 50% 75% 100%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Living With Two Parents 80.2%
Estimated Number of Children 24,420
Percent of Total Population 23.1%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background
White 95.5%
Black 2.2%
Other Races 2.3%
Hispanic (may be of any race) 3.2%

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate
Child Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	3,242	14.8	7.0
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	6,326	38.4	25.3
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	631	36.8	31.3
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	190	14.8	8.3
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	118	91.8	73.4
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	13	9.8	7.0
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	225	18.5	10.9
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	834	20.1	28.3
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	663	51.2	72.0
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	174	16.2	33.8
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	402	37.5	22.9
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	126	14.8	15.3
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	265	31.1	26.8
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	225	5.0	3.5
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	805	3.6	2.2
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	5	29.3	24.1
Preventable Teen Deaths five-year total, 1993-97	15	*	*
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	74	723.4	451.1

Living With Two Parents 64.9%
Estimated Number of Children 22,275
Percent of Total Population 21.3%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background
White 76.6%
Black 8.3%
Other Races 15.5%
Hispanic (may be of any race) 22.3%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

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Hartford

Hartford

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	Worse Than State Rate	State Rate	Better Than State Rate
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	10,283	28.5	307%	7.0	
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998 99	20,171	88.3	249%	25.3	
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	374	35.3	13%	31.3	
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	518	23.0	177%	8.3	
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	269	119.7	63%	73.4	
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995 97	33	14.4	106%	7.0	
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	211	10.9		10.9	
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4 6 8 and 10th grade students, 1997 98	769	17.9	37%	28.3	
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998 99	1,144	54.9	24%	72.0	
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998 99	94	6.6	80%	33.8	
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998 99	903	63.1	176%	22.9	
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998 99	9	0.9	94%	15.3	
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998 99	652	65.8	146%	26.8	
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9 12, 1997 98	514	9.6	174%	3.5	
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998 99	1,603	4.4	98%	2.2	
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 14, avg. 1993 97	14	46.9	95%	24.1	
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993 97	39	*		*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10 17, avg. 1996 98	131	1,016.4	125%	451.1	

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71 74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Living With Two Parents	30.3%
Estimated Number of Children	36,133
Percent of Total Population	27.5%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	24.7%
Black	44.2%
Other Races	31.1%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	46.7%

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate ← 100% 75% 50% 25% 0	Better Than State Rate → 0 25% 50% 75% 100%
Child Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	1,930	9.5	7.0	36%	
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	4,391	28.2	25.3	11%	
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	671	35.1	31.3	12%	
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	130	10.0	8.3	20%	
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	105	81.1	73.4	11%	
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	9	7.0	7.0		
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	113	9.4	10.9		14%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4-6-8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	949	27.4	28.3	3%	
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	649	55.0	72.0	24%	
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	328	30.9	33.8	9%	
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	214	20.2	22.9		12%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	69	8.0	15.3	48%	
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	251	29.1	26.8	9%	
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	253	5.7	3.5	63%	
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	567	2.8	2.2	24%	
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	4	22.6	24.1		6%
Preventable Teen Deaths five-year total, 1993-97	9	*	*		
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	53	548.7	451.1	22%	

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Capitol I

East Hartford
Manchester

Living With Two Parents	70.8%
Estimated Number of Children	20,366
Percent of Total Population	20.6%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	84.4%
Black	9.9%
Other Races	5.7%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	6.7%

Capitol II

Avon
Bloomfield
Canton
Simsbury
West Hartford

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate ← 100% 75% 50% 25% 0	Better Than State Rate → 0 25% 50% 75% 100%
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	290	1.2	7.0		83%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998 99	2,259	11.3	25.3		55%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	539	22.4	31.3		28%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	53	3.8	8.3		54%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	93	67.5	73.4		8%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995 97	12	8.2	7.0	17%	
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	70	6.5	10.9		50%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997 98	1,950	37.2	28.3		31%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998 99	1,221	81.1	72.0		13%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998 99	813	55.6	33.8		64%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998 99	174	11.9	22.9		48%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998 99	406	31.6	15.3		107%
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998 99	224	17.4	26.8		35%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9 12, 1997 98	93	1.7	3.5		51%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998 99	225	0.9	2.2		60%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 14, avg. 1993 97	4	18.6	24.1		23%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993 97	10	*	*		
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10 17, avg. 1996 98	36	310.6	451.1		31%

Living With Two Parents 83.3%
Estimated Number of Children 24,957
Percent of Total Population 21.0%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background
White 85.2%
Black 10.4%
Other Races 4.4%
Hispanic (may be of any race) 3.6%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71 74 for Data Notes and Sources.

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Capitol III

East Granby
East Windsor
Enfield
Granby
Hartland
South Windsor
Suffield
Windsor
Windsor Locks

Living With Two Parents	81.9%
Estimated Number of Children	32,966
Percent of Total Population	23.1%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	91.0%
Black	5.7%
Other Races	3.3%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	2.6%

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Capitol IV

Farmington
Glastonbury
Marlborough
Newington
Rocky Hill
Wethersfield

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate ← 100% 75% 50% 25% 0	Better Than State Rate → 0 25% 50% 75% 100%
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	317	1.2	7.0		83%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	1,188	5.9	25.3		77%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	618	26.7	31.3		15%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	29	2.1	8.3		75%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	82	59.4	73.4		19%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	10	6.8	7.0		3%
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	83	6.4	10.9		41%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4,6,8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,831	32.9	28.3		16%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,302	84.2	72.0		17%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	733	46.5	33.8		38%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	141	8.9	22.9		61%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	315	23.7	15.3		55%
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	183	13.8	26.8		49%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	74	1.4	3.5		60%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	170	0.7	2.2		70%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	4	18.3	24.1		24%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	6	*	*		
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	22	181.5	451.1		60%

Living With Two Parents	84.2%
Estimated Number of Children	25,679
Percent of Total Population	20.4%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	94.7%
Black	1.8%
Other Races	3.5%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	2.7%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate ← 100% 75% 50% 25% 0	Better Than State Rate → 0 25% 50% 75% 100%
Child Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	642	2.2	7.0		69%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	2,546	11.7	25.3		54%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	837	31.4	31.3	1%	
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	65	4.6	8.3		45%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	93	66.5	73.4		9%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	14	9.3	7.0	33%	
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	123	9.1	10.9		17%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4-6-8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,630	29.4	28.3		4%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,190	77.0	72.0		7%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	688	41.3	33.8		22%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	211	12.7	22.9		45%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	266	18.3	15.3		20%
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	281	19.4	26.8		28%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	168	2.9	3.5		17%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	386	1.3	2.2		42%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	4	15.4	24.1		36%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	17	*	*		
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	41	320.5	451.1		29%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Capitol V

Andover
Bolton
Columbia
Coventry
Ellington
Hebron
Mansfield
Somers
Stafford
Tolland
Union
Vernon
Willington

Living With Two Parents	82.0%
Estimated Number of Children	29,712
Percent of Total Population	22.5%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	95.4%
Black	1.7%
Other Races	2.9%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	2.1%

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Northeast

Ashford
Brooklyn
Canterbury
Chaplin
Eastford
Hampton
Killingly
Plainfield
Pomfret
Putnam
Scotland
Sterling
Thompson
Windham
Woodstock

Living With Two Parents	73.4%
Estimated Number of Children	27,031
Percent of Total Population	25.7%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	93.7%
Black	1.3%
Other Races	5.0%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	6.8%

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	Worse Than State Rate ← 100% 75% 50% 25% 0	State Rate	0 25% 50% 75% 100% → Better Than State Rate
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	1,549	5.7		7.0	19%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	5,047	26.7		25.3	6%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	882	40.3		31.3	29%
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	152	12.1		8.3	46%
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	85	67.8		73.4	8%
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	11	8.1		7.0	16%
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	152	12.8		10.9	17%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4-6-8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,507	29.5		28.3	4%
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	941	71.5		72.0	1%
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	333	24.5		33.8	28%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	440	32.4		22.9	41%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	128	10.1		15.3	34%
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	340	26.9		26.8	1%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	278	5.0		3.5	43%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	1,060	3.9		2.2	75%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	6	25.9		24.1	7%
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	17	*		*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	80	779.5		451.1	73%

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	Worse Than State Rate	State Rate	Better Than State Rate
Child Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	1,192	3.6		7.0	49%
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	3,519	15.1		25.3	40%
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	990	32.1	3%	31.3	
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	140	8.8	6%	8.3	
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	118	74.6	2%	73.4	
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	14	8.1	16%	7.0	
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	155	10.0		10.9	8%
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4-6-8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	1,775	28.3		28.3	
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	1,269	67.3	7%	72.0	
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	657	37.3		33.8	10%
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	290	16.5		22.9	28%
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	233	14.0	8%	15.3	
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	394	23.7		26.8	12%
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	173	2.6		3.5	26%
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	693	2.1		2.2	5%
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	7	25.5	6%	24.1	
Preventable Teen Deaths five-year total, 1993-97	23	*		*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	69	529.3	17%	451.1	

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Southeast

Bozrah
Colchester
Franklin
Griswold
Lebanon
Ledyard
Lisbon
Lyme
Montville
North Stonington
Norwich
Old Lyme
Preston
Salem
Sprague
Voluntown

Living With Two Parents	77.6%
Estimated Number of Children	32,749
Percent of Total Population	25.1%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	93.6%
Black	3.4%
Other Races	3.1%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	2.8%

Southeast Shore

East Lyme
Groton
New London
Stonington
Waterford

Living With Two Parents	75.2%
Estimated Number of Children	25,218
Percent of Total Population	21.8%

Children's Racial/Ethnic Background

White	83.5%
Black	9.5%
Other Races	6.9%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	7.8%

Indicator	Region No.	Region Rate	State Rate	Worse Than State Rate / Better Than State Rate
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA) percent of all children, June 1998	1,494	5.9	7.0	16% better
Free/Reduced-Price School Meals percent of all students who are eligible, 1998-99	4,046	22.7	25.3	10% better
High School Employment percent of students working 16+ hours/week, 1998	714	33.1	31.3	6% worse
Births to Teen Mothers percent of all births, 1997	135	8.4	8.3	1% worse
Low Birthweight per 1,000 births, 1997	101	63.1	73.4	14% better
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, avg. 1995-97	11	6.8	7.0	3% better
Late or No Prenatal Care percent of all births, 1997	220	13.9	10.9	28% worse
Physical Fitness Tests percent of 4-6-8 and 10th grade students, 1997-98	997	23.3	28.3	18% worse
Preschool Experience percent of all kindergarten students, 1998-99	881	62.3	72.0	13% worse
Meeting CMT Goal percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	419	31.5	33.8	7% worse
Below CMT Basic Level percent of all sixth grade students, 1998-99	309	23.2	22.9	1% worse
Meeting CAPT Goal percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	147	13.8	15.3	10% worse
Below CAPT Basic Level percent of all tenth grade students, 1998-99	275	25.8	26.8	4% better
High School Dropouts percent of all students grades 9-12, 1997-98	179	3.7	3.5	6% worse
Child Abuse/Neglect percent of all children, SFY 1998-99	749	3.0	2.2	33% worse
Child Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, avg. 1993-97	4	20.1	24.1	17% better
Preventable Teen Deaths five year total, 1993-97	20	*	*	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests per 100,000 children ages 10-17, avg. 1996-98	45	386.0	451.1	14% better

* Number too small to calculate meaningful rate. Please see pages 71-74 for Data Notes and Sources.

Data Sources and Notes

Child Well-Being Indicators:

Below CAPT Basic Level
Below CMT Basic Level
Births to Teen Mothers
Child Abuse/Neglect
Child Deaths
Children Receiving Welfare (TFA)
Free or Reduced-Price School Meals
High School Dropouts
High School Employment
Infant Mortality
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests
Late or No Prenatal Care
Low Birthweight
Meeting CAPT Goal
Meeting CMT Goal
Physical Fitness Tests
Preschool Experience
Preventable Teen Deaths

Demographic data:

Total Population, 1998
Population Under 18, 1998
Percent Under 18, 1990
Race/Ethnicity, 1990
Family Setting: Two Parent Families, Single-Parent Families, and Children Living in Other Situations

Child Well-Being Indicators:

Below CAPT Basic Level

The Connecticut State Department of Education uses the Connecticut Academic Performance Tests (CAPT) to evaluate tenth grade students in four areas: language arts, mathematics, science and an interdisciplinary task. The rates are calculated by dividing the number of students who scored below the remedial standard on any one of the four tests by the total number of students taking the tests.

Sources: Connecticut State Department of Education, *Connecticut Academic Performance Test Results, 1996-97* and *1998-99*.

Below CMT Basic Level

The Connecticut State Department of Education uses the Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) to evaluate sixth grade students on their reading, writing, and mathematical skills. The rates are calculated by dividing the number of students who scored at or above goal on all three tests by the total number of students taking the tests.

Sources: Connecticut State Department of Education, *Connecticut Mastery Test Results, 1994-95*, and *1998-99*.

Births to Teen Mothers

The number of teen births is defined as the total number of babies born to mothers age 19 or younger. The rate is the total number of teen births divided by the total number of births, then multiplied by 100 to get a percentage. The percentage shown here measures the risks to the generation of babies being born today. The teen birth rate, which compares the number of teen births to the number of teenage girls, is not available at a local level because of a lack of reliable data for the number of teenage girls to use as a denominator.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Public Health, unpublished data, and *Registration Reports*, 1987, 1992 and 1997.

Child Abuse/Neglect

The rate is the total number of children who have been confirmed by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families as neglected or abused in the state fiscal year (between July 1 and June 30), divided by the estimated number of children ages 1-18, then multiplied by 100 to get a percentage. The number of children used to calculate the rates is based on applying the percentage of population under 18 for each region from the 1990 Census to the Connecticut Department of Public Health estimate of population for 1996 and 1998.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Children and Families, unpublished data, state fiscal year 1996-97 and 1998-99.

Child Deaths
The annual average number of child deaths shown here is the total number of deaths to children ages 1 to 14 over a five year period, 1993-1997, divided by five. The annual average rate is the total number of child deaths over five years, divided by five, divided by the estimated number of children ages 1-14, then multiplied by 100,000 to get a rate per 100,000 children in that age group. The number of children used to calculate the rates is based on applying the percentage of population ages 1-14 for each region from the 1990 Census to the Connecticut Department of Public Health estimate of population for 1997.
Sources: Connecticut Department of Public Health, unpublished data, 1993-1997.

Children Receiving Welfare (TFA)
The numbers shown here are the total number of children receiving welfare benefits (TFA) in June of that year. It is a snapshot in time and does not represent the total number of children who received TFA at any time during that year. The rate is calculated by dividing the number of children receiving TFA by the estimated number of children in that region. The total number of children used to calculate the rates is based on applying the percentage of population under 18 for each region from the 1990 Census to the Connecticut Department of Public Health estimate of population for the years 1997 and 1998.
Sources: Connecticut Department of Social Services, unpublished data, 1997 and 1998.

Free or Reduced-Price School Meals
Schools report to the Connecticut State Department of Education the number of children who are eligible for free and reduce-price meals. Income guidelines for this program are 130% of the federal poverty level (FPL) for free lunches and 185% of the FPL for reduced-price meals. Charter and magnet schools by their very nature draw students from across regional boundaries; data for these schools has been included as a separate row on the table on page 20. The 1998-99 school year was the first year which data was collected based on eligibility, as opposed to program participation. For this reason, the 1998-99 data is not comparable to previous years' data and region to region comparisons should be made with caution.
Source: Connecticut State Department of Education, unpublished data, 1998-99.

High School Dropouts
Dropout rates used here are only for high school students and only include the number of youths who dropped out of school in the given year. They do not include the number of children who drop out of school before ninth grade. The dropout figures include students who officially withdraw from school, those who enter a non-educational program (e.g. truck driving school or GED classes), and those whose status is unknown. Students transferring to another school are not counted as dropouts. These figures do not include the one percent of students who are enrolled in ungraded classes. Please note that the data is only for a single year, and is *not* a cumulative rate as is sometimes reported.
Source: Connecticut State Department of Education, *Dropout Data Analysis on Public School Districts in Connecticut, 1992-93, 1997-98.*

High School Employment
To obtain this percentage, the number of juniors and seniors who reported working for pay 16 or more hours during a typical week was divided by the number of juniors and seniors reported as employed or unemployed. Cooperative work experience during normal school hours and volunteer work were excluded.
Source: Connecticut State Department of Education, unpublished data, 1997-98 and 1998-99.

Infant Mortality
The annual average infant deaths shown here is the total number of babies who die before their first birthday over a three year period, divided by three. The annual average rate is the total number of infant deaths over three years, divided by the total number of live births over the same three years, then multiplied by 1,000 to obtain an infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.
Sources: Connecticut Department of Public Health, unpublished data, and *Registration Reports*, 1985 through 1997.

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests
Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Because of the large difference in the number of arrests each year, three year averages are shown. The annual average number of arrests is a total for the three year period divided by three. The annual average rate is the annual average number divided by the estimated number of children age 10-17, multiplied by 100,000 to get a rate per 100,000 children of this

age group. The number of children used to calculate the rates is based on applying the percentage of population age 10-17 for each region from the 1990 Census to the Connecticut Department of Public Health estimate of population for the years 1992 and 1997. The number of arrests of children for violent crimes includes arrests made by local and state police. Unfortunately, the data is not reported identically for these agencies. Approximately 85% of all juvenile arrests for violent crimes are made by local police, and this data is reported by the town in which the arrest was made. The 15% of arrests made by the state police are reported by the town in which the child lives. State police arrests are important to include because many rural regions do not have municipal police departments, and the majority of the arrests in these regions are made by the state police. Therefore, one should exercise caution when using this data because the total number of juvenile arrests for each region includes data from these two sources. Despite these limitations, given the limited mobility of children ages 10-17, police experts believe that this data is still valid.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Connecticut, 1991 -1998 Annual Reports*, and unpublished data.

Late or No Prenatal Care

The rates are calculated by dividing the total number of births with late or no prenatal care by the total number of births where the status of prenatal care has been determined.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Public Health, unpublished data, and *Registration Reports*, 1992, 1997.

Low Birthweight

The rates are calculated by dividing the number of low birthweight births by the total number of births, then multiplying that by 1,000 to obtain a low birthweight rate per 1,000 births.

Sources: Table data from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, unpublished data, and *Registration Reports*, 1987, 1992, and 1997.

Meeting CAPT Goal

The Connecticut State Department of Education uses the Connecticut Academic Performance Tests (CAPT) to evaluate tenth grade students in four areas: language arts, mathematics, science and an interdisciplinary task. The rates are calculated by dividing the number of students who scored at or above goal on all four tests by the total number of students taking the tests.

Sources: Table data from the Connecticut State Department of Education, *Connecticut Academic Performance Test Results, 1996-97* and *1998-99*.

Meeting CMT Goal

The Connecticut State Department of Education uses the Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) to evaluate sixth grade students on their reading, writing, and mathematical skills. The state goal is the level that ideally every student at that grade level is expected to achieve. The rates are calculated by dividing the number of students who scored at or above goal on all three tests by the total number of students taking the tests.

Sources: Connecticut State Department of Education, *Connecticut Mastery Test Results, 1994-95*, and *1998-99*.

Physical Fitness Tests

Schools report to the Connecticut State Department of Education the number of students who met national age and sex standards on the sit-and-reach, sit-up, pull-up and mile-run tests. Percentages are calculated by dividing this by the number of students taking all four tests.

Sources: Connecticut State Department of Education, unpublished data, 1997-98.

Preschool Experience

This data shows the number of students enrolled in kindergarten in the fall of the given year, who regularly attended a Head Start program, family day care center, nursery school, licensed day care center or public preschool program in the previous year.

Sources: Connecticut State Department of Education, unpublished data, 1997-98, 1998-99.

Preventable Teen Deaths

Because of the small number of teen deaths in any given year, this book reports only five-year total number of deaths by cause, not an annual average as in the other charts.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Public Health, unpublished data, 1993-1997.

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Demographic data:

Total Population, 1998
Sources: Connecticut Department of Public Health, *Estimates of Town Population*, 1992-1998.

Population Under 18, 1998
Estimates of the number of children are calclated by applying the percentage of the total population ages 1-14 for each region from the 1990 Census to the Connecticut Department of Public Health population estimates for 1998.
Sources: Connecticut Department of Public Health, unpublished data, 1998.

Percent Under 18, 1990
Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population and Housing, 1990.*

Race/Ethnicity, 1990
We have reported race and ethnicity using the categories established for the 1990 U.S. Census and used by state agencies providing the data. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.
Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population and Housing, 1990.*

Family Setting: Two Parent Families, Single-Parent Families, and Children Living in Other Situations
Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population and Housing, 1990.*

Methodology

Number:
For each indicator, we include the number of "events" for a given time period, for example, the number of high school students who dropped out during the 1997-98 school year.

Rate:
For 17 of the 18 child well-being indicators, we include rates as well as numbers. A rate is a measure of the likelihood of an event, and is calculated by dividing the number of events by the number of persons that are "eligible" for that event. For example, the high school dropout rate is the number of students who dropped out in a given year by the number of students enrolled. A percentage is a rate per 100. Other rates included here are per 1,000 or 100,000. Rates can be used to compare between regions for a specific indicator. The regions with rates worse than the statewide rate are highlighted on each table. Meaningful rates can not be calculated for the teen deaths measure at the local level because of a lack of reliable data for the number of teenagers to use as a denominator.

Rounding:
In the charts, all rates are calculated to the nearest tenth of a percent. The percent change in rates over time are rounded to the nearest whole number. (Please note that because of this rounding, percentages may not always add up to exactly one hundred percent.)

Selection of indicators:
Many different indicators could have been used to measure the well-being of children. The compilation of these indicators for our first book was a function of 1) the results of a survey of members of the Children's Future Panel (a group of more than forty individuals who are advising this project), 2) relation to national KIDS COUNT indicators, 3) how directly the indicator measured children's well-being, and 4) availability of data.

Regions:
For the purposes of this report, we have divided Connecticut into 27 regions (towns or groups of towns) based on the public use microdata areas established by the Census Bureau. The use of regions allowed us to calculate rates where the population would have been too small at the town level. Each region has a population of more than 100,000, and no town is split between two regions. The five largest cities, Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, and Waterbury, are regions unto themselves. The raw data for the tables was collected originally for each town, and then towns were grouped into regions. Regional school districts sometimes enrolled students from more than one of the regions for the high school dropout data used in this report; a list of the regions to which these school districts were assigned can be found on page 15. Indexes to towns and regions and a map are located on pages 12-13.

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In April 1994, CAHS released *Connecticut's Children: Still At Risk*, the first comprehensive report on the status of Connecticut's children in ten years. As a companion piece, *Someone Cared* presented six compelling profiles of families beating the odds and the people and programs that turned their lives around.

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—David M. Nee, William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund

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kids count

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